Hanging Out With

The Spirits of Preng

WAT PRENG

PHAIBUN THANYAHAN

GIOVANNI METRO STOP GALLERY
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Wat Preng Phaibun Thanyahan

วัดเปร็งไพบูลย์ธัญญาหาร

PW6M+X27, Ro Pho Cho Chachoengsao 3014 Rd., Khlong Preng,
Mueang Chachoengsao District, Chachoengsao 24000

A peaceful temple with a glass-decorated inner viharn housing the first replica of Luang Por Insan in the eastern region (a Buddha image depicting the legend of Indra and villagers building Buddha images from bamboo from a state in Burma).

The original ordination hall has been

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renovated and is expected to become a museum.

There is a Phra Buddha Chinnarat and a three-dimensional Buddha image in Burmese art and technique (look closely).

It is astonishing.

There is a sacred Luang Por Dam, where you can pay homage.

There is a kuti built on top of a boat.

Traveling is convenient by car, with good roads and entrances, bathrooms, and sufficient parking.

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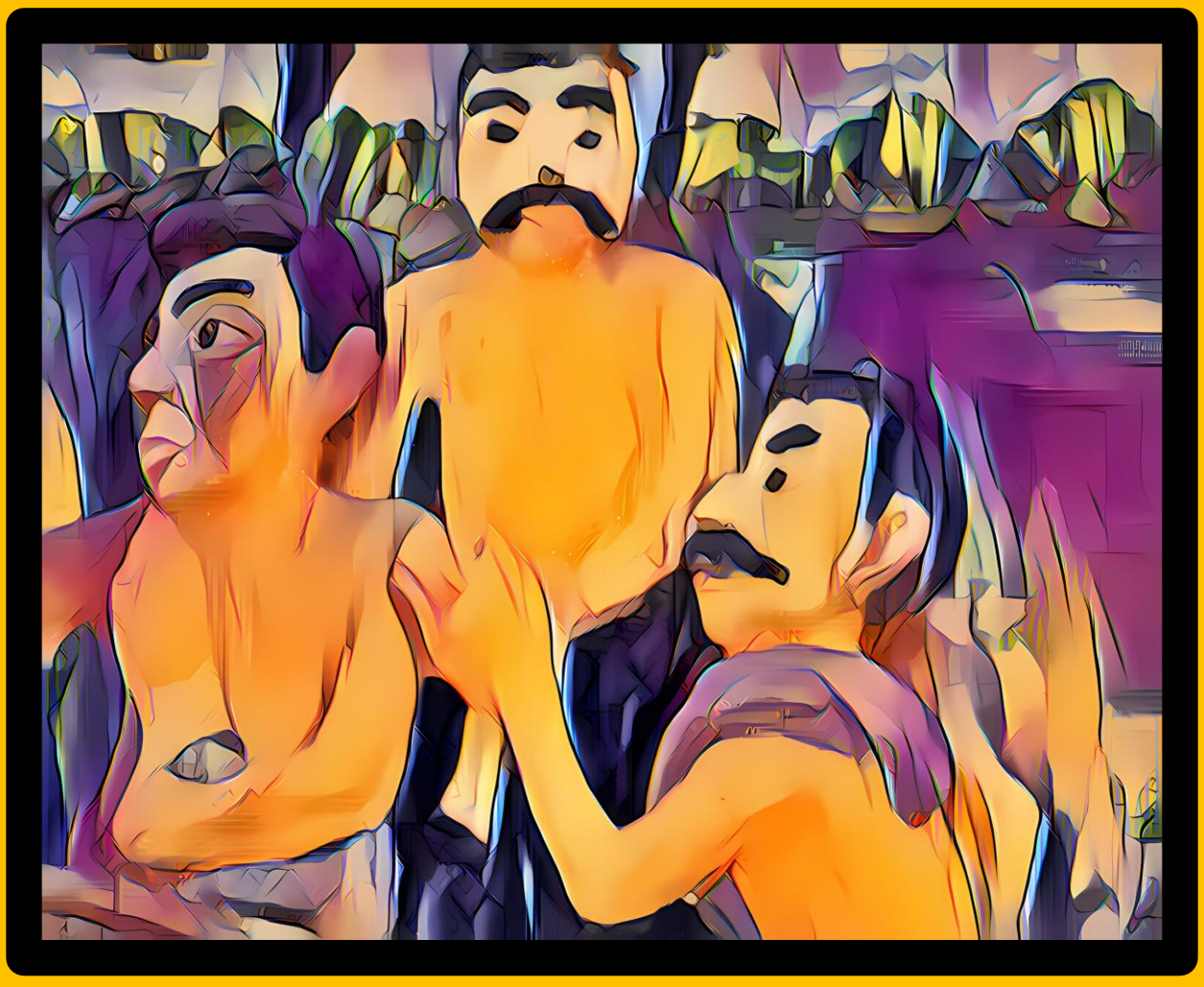
I want to clarify that my intention is not to endorse anything; however, I must express that nothing has been more enjoyable than receiving a complimentary ice cream cone during the mid-morning at the main reception area of the train station. After boarding the train, I chose a seat close to the exit, having been advised that this was essential due to the trains becoming quite crowded, which can complicate disembarking at one's intended stop.



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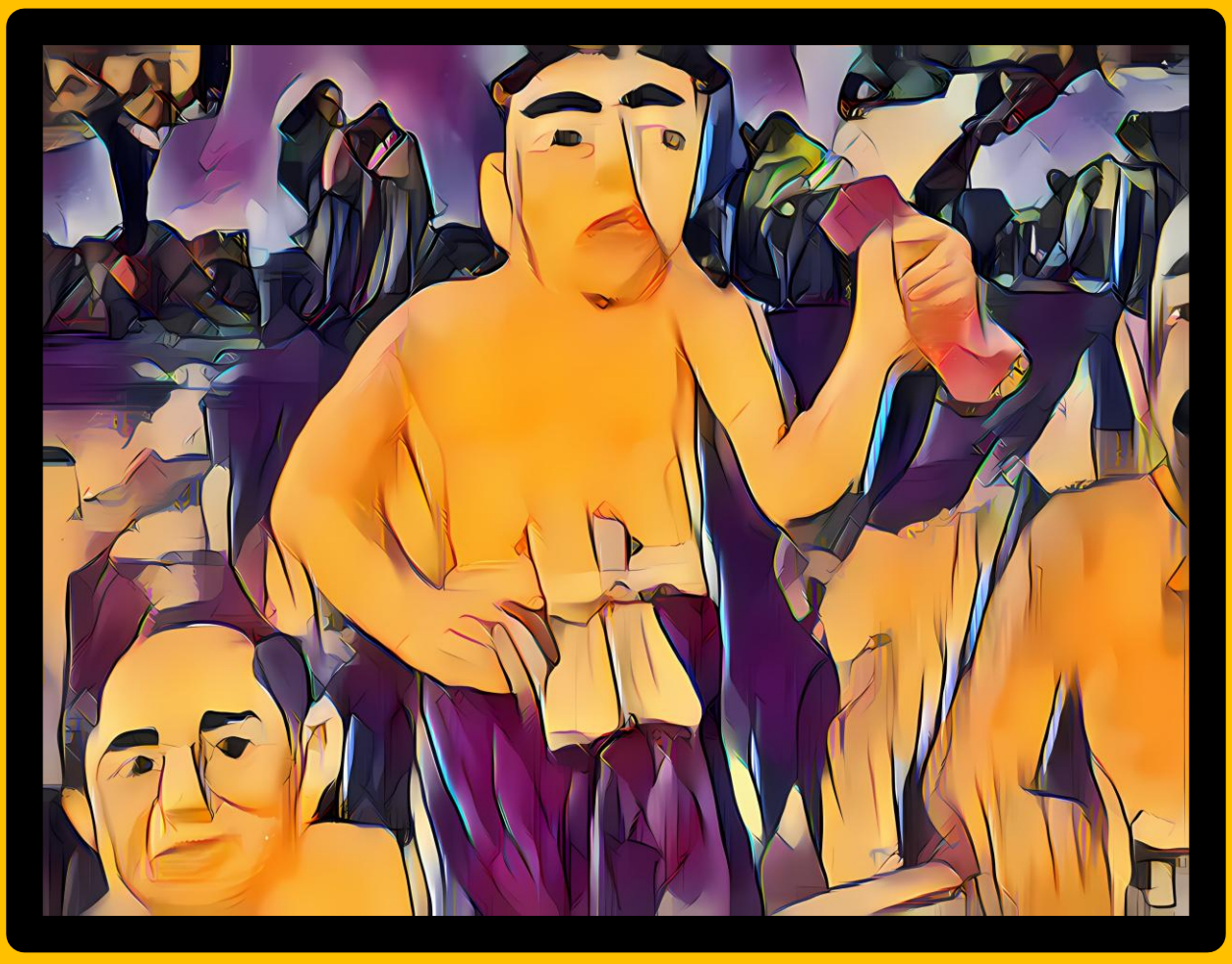
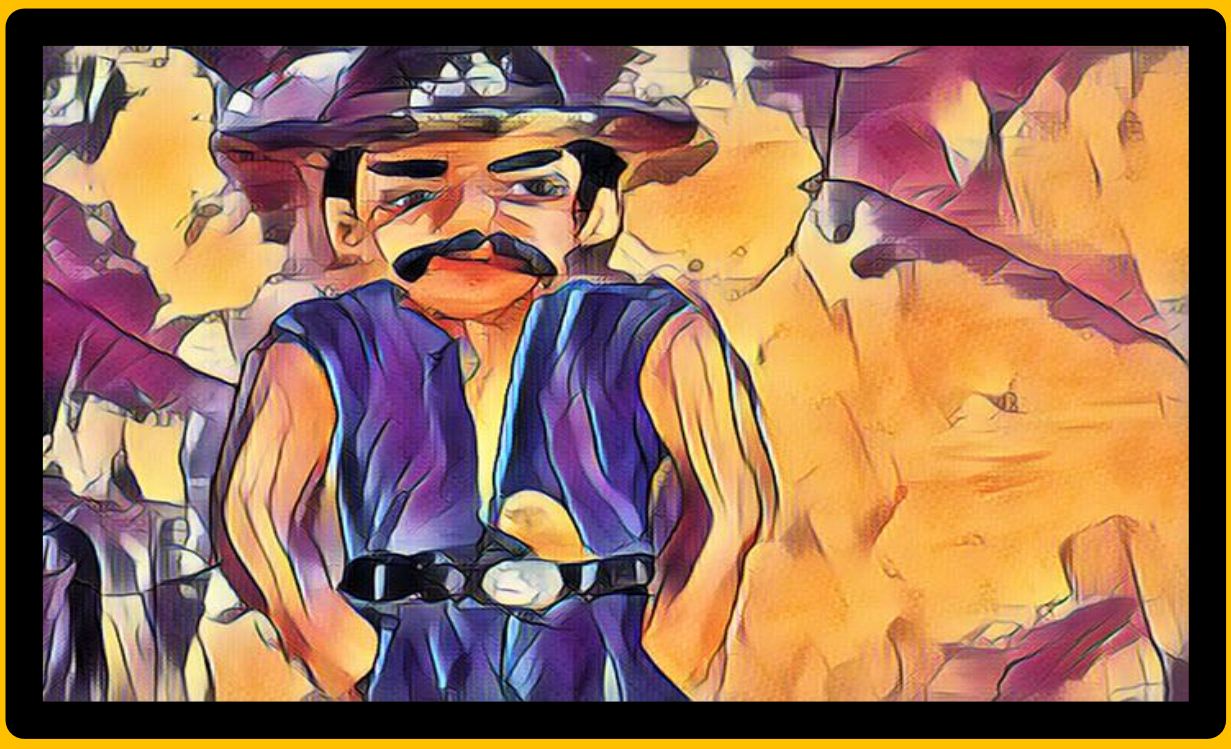
Although my journey was only a few stations long, past experiences have taught me the importance of being prepared rather than risking the chance of missing my destination.

As soon as I settled into my seat, I was approached by a group of friendly strangers who urgently advised me against embarking on my planned day trip.

They warned me that I was about to enter a haunted realm, where ordinary reflections in puddles or eerie chalk





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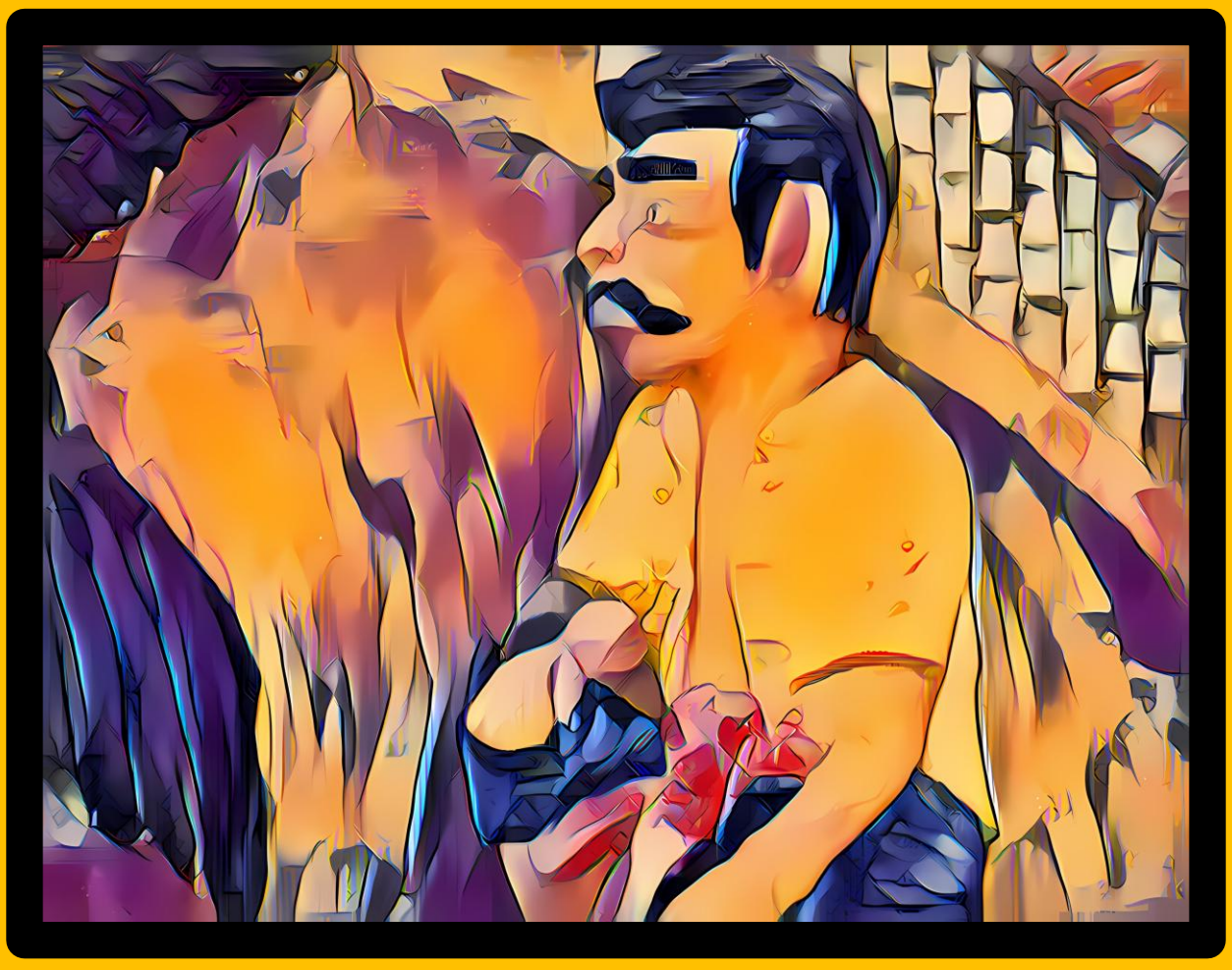
drawings on walls could lead to unsettling experiences.

They cautioned me specifically to avoid engaging in casual conversation with any black-robed figures I might encounter along the river dock.

However, an elderly woman nearby interjected, reassuring me that the robed ferrymen posed no threat unless I chose to linger until the early morning mist enveloped the area.

I nodded in acknowledgment, albeit



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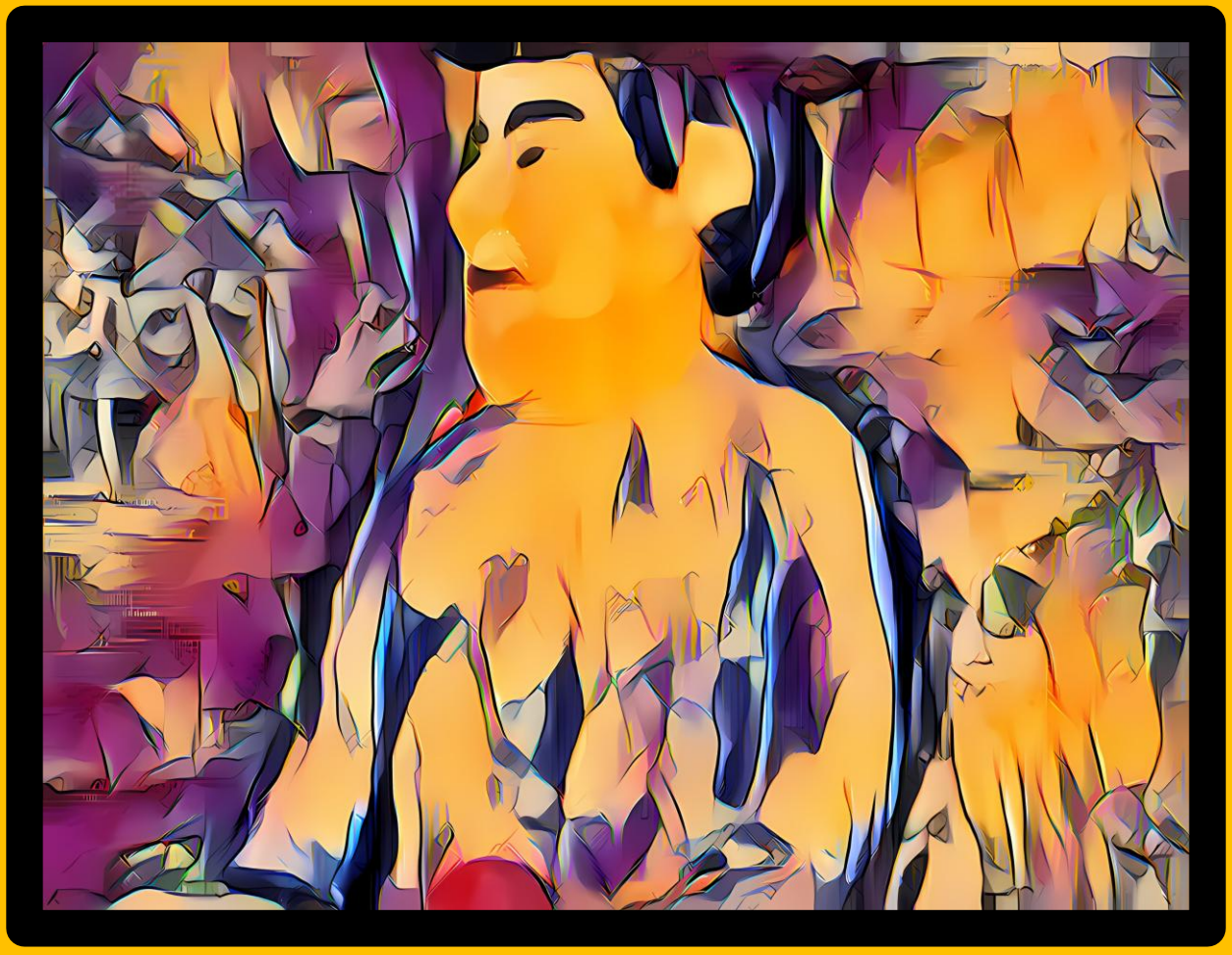
somewhat unconsciously, as I turned my gaze to the train gliding past what the locals refer to as ghost stations.

These are, in fact, deserted stops where trains occasionally halt, presumably to collect the errant spirits of commuters.

This peculiar notion triggered a memory of the anti-romantic poetry favored by the old man, who often recited lines about the starkness of reality: one must be prudent in anticipating a future where rogue clans of cows might dominate the earth.



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The Preng Station serves as a modest hub for this predominantly rural community, staffed by amiable station agents who persuaded me that, although walking to the temple was an option, the 20 Baht fare for a motorcycle taxi was a worthwhile investment.

Ultimately, their advice proved accurate, and I resolved to express my gratitude to them upon my return.

The temple embodies the essence of a rural sanctuary, exuding tranquility amid the backdrop of ongoing construction.

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Among the latest additions is the "Chapel of Glass," which features a strikingly beautiful, oversized Buddha statue crafted from weathered bamboo.

This captivating sight is enhanced by the chapel's effective air conditioning, providing a refreshing escape from the sweltering midday heat of approaching summer.

As I sought shelter from the intense heat at the entrance of the chapel, I met an elderly monk.

After a brief introduction, we decided to

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share a bench, which led to a surprisingly profound discussion about the coexistence of the present, past, and potential future, all separated by harmonic frequencies that obscure them from our perception.

I expressed my belief that the past resembled a graveyard, where only the weeds of regret thrive, suggesting that one could become trapped in it, thereby losing access to the present and, consequently, the future.

The monk frowned, leaned closer, and countered that the past still holds valuable

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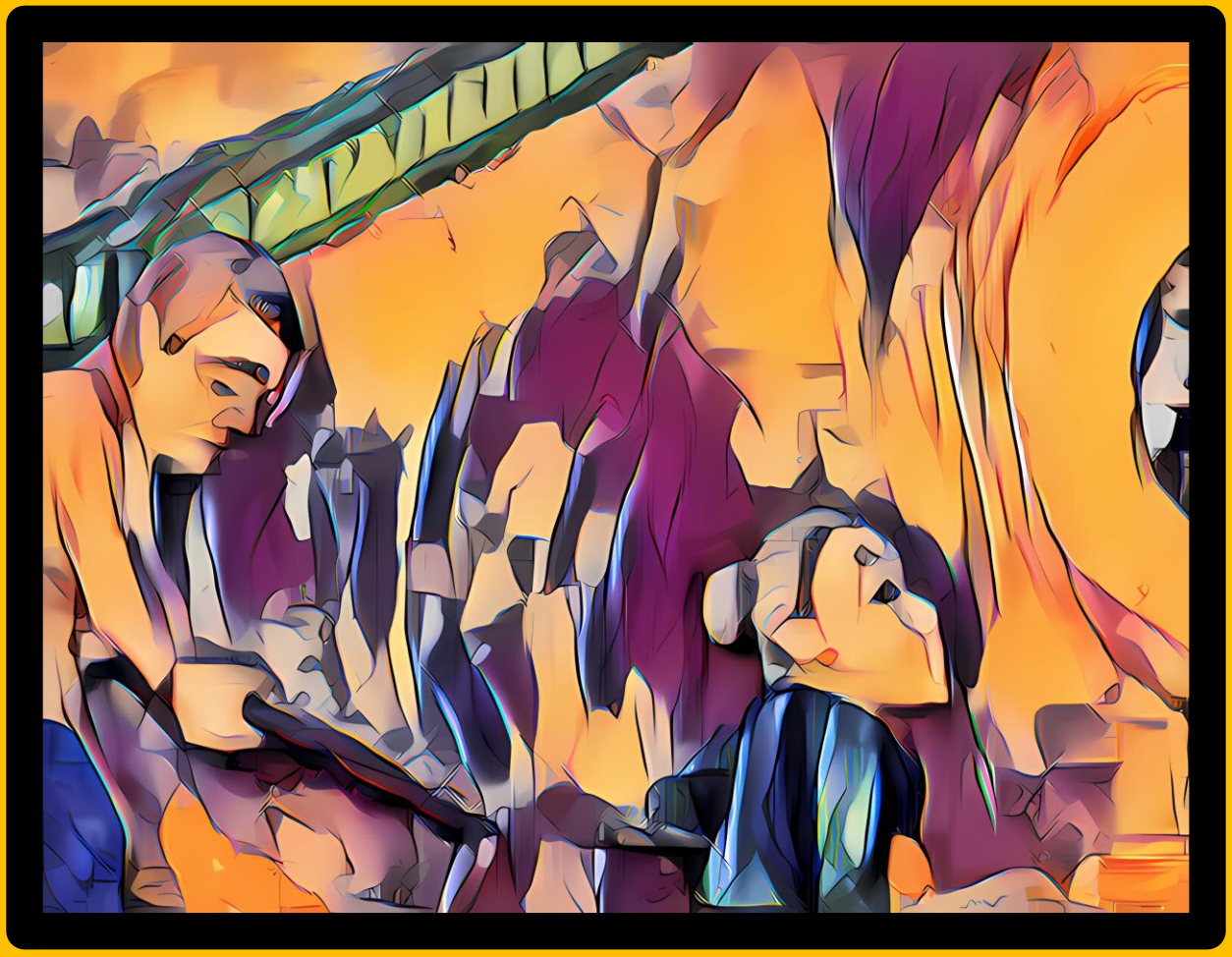
lessons for those brave enough to explore it. He gestured toward the distant chapel by the river and conveyed that it is a place where the past coexists with the present, provided we can adjust our own harmonic frequency. He lamented that few possessed the necessary ability, dedication, or patience to cultivate this skill before he took his leave for afternoon prayers.

The portal served as the boundary encircling the chapel, adorned with illustrations depicting Preng's history.



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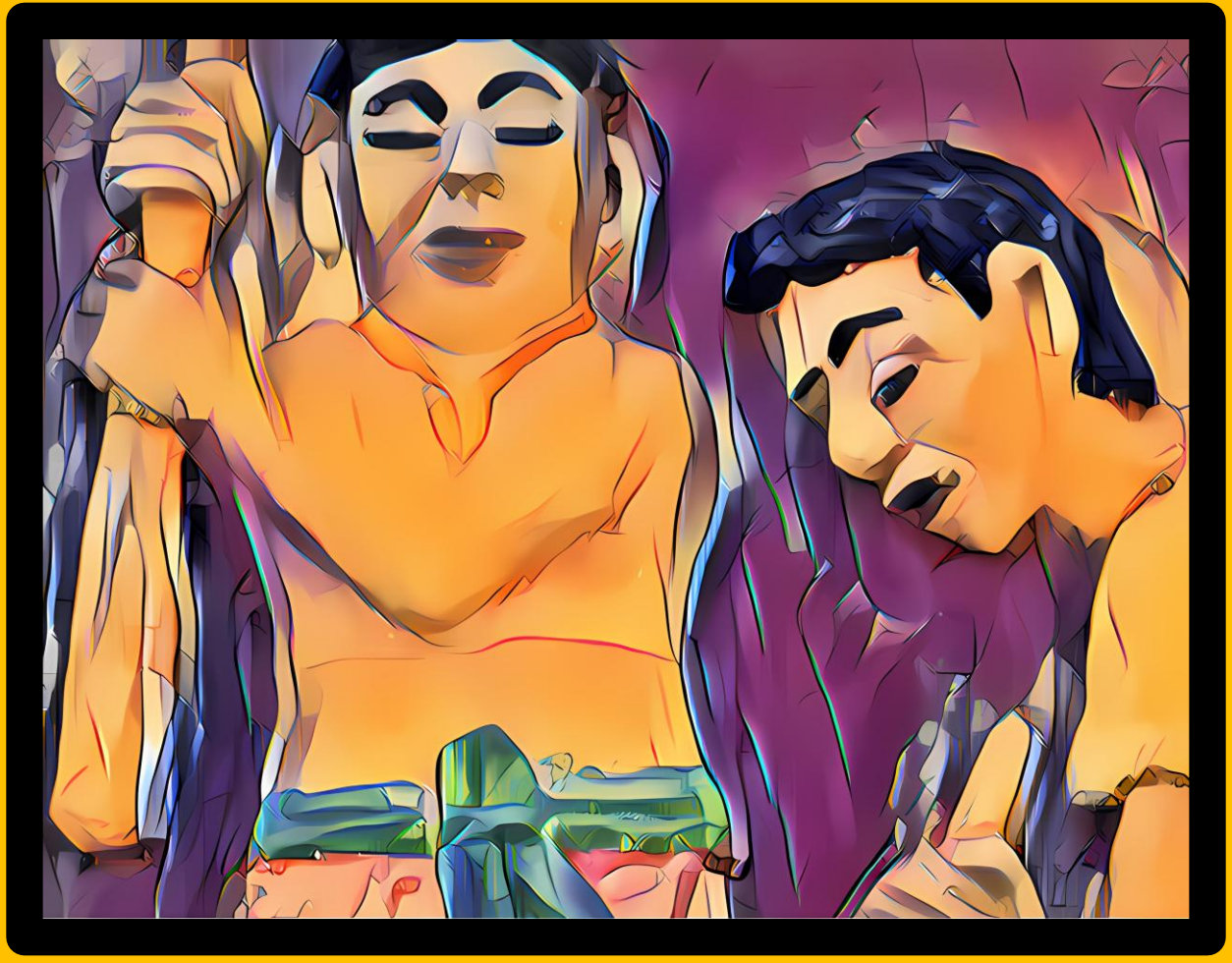
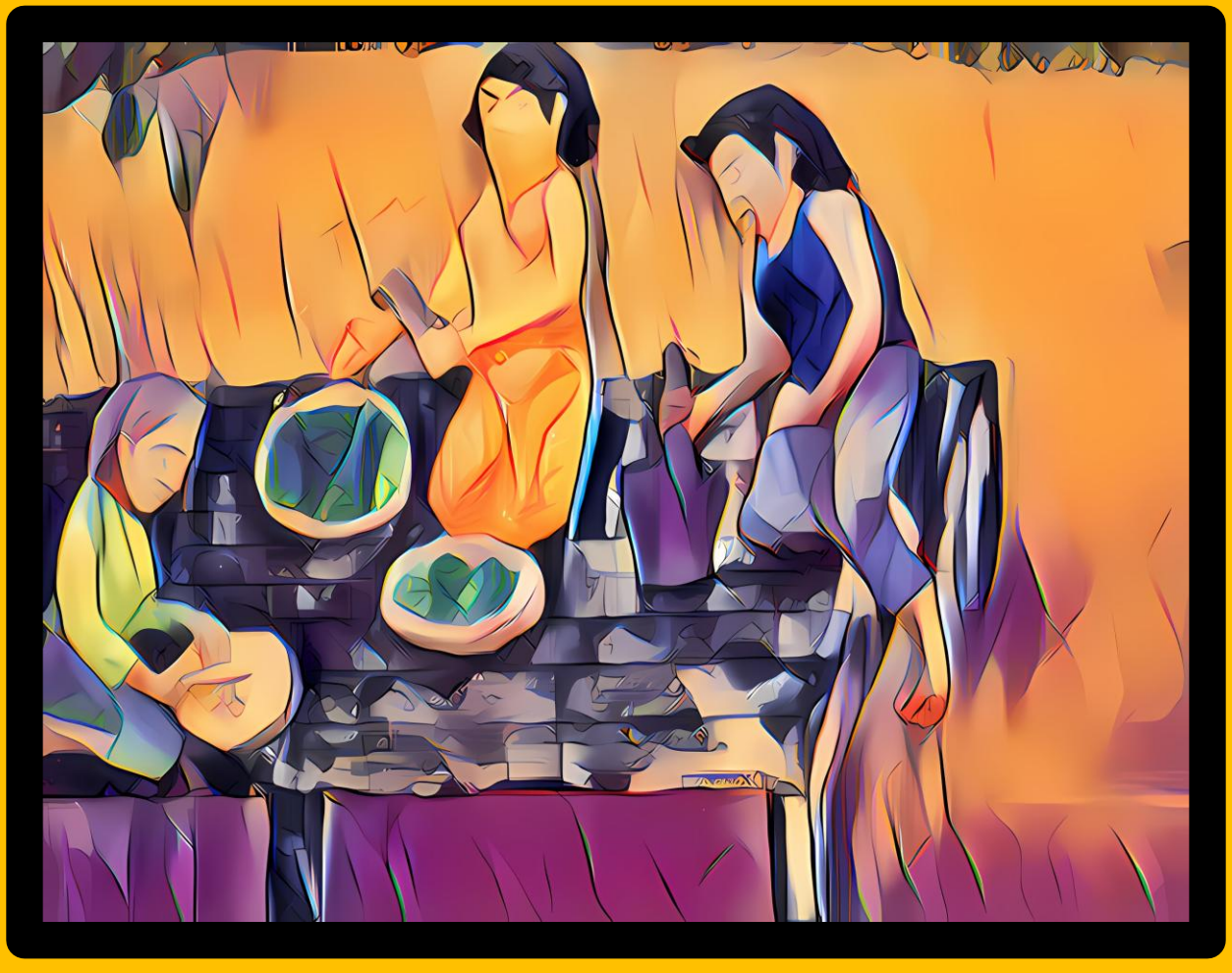
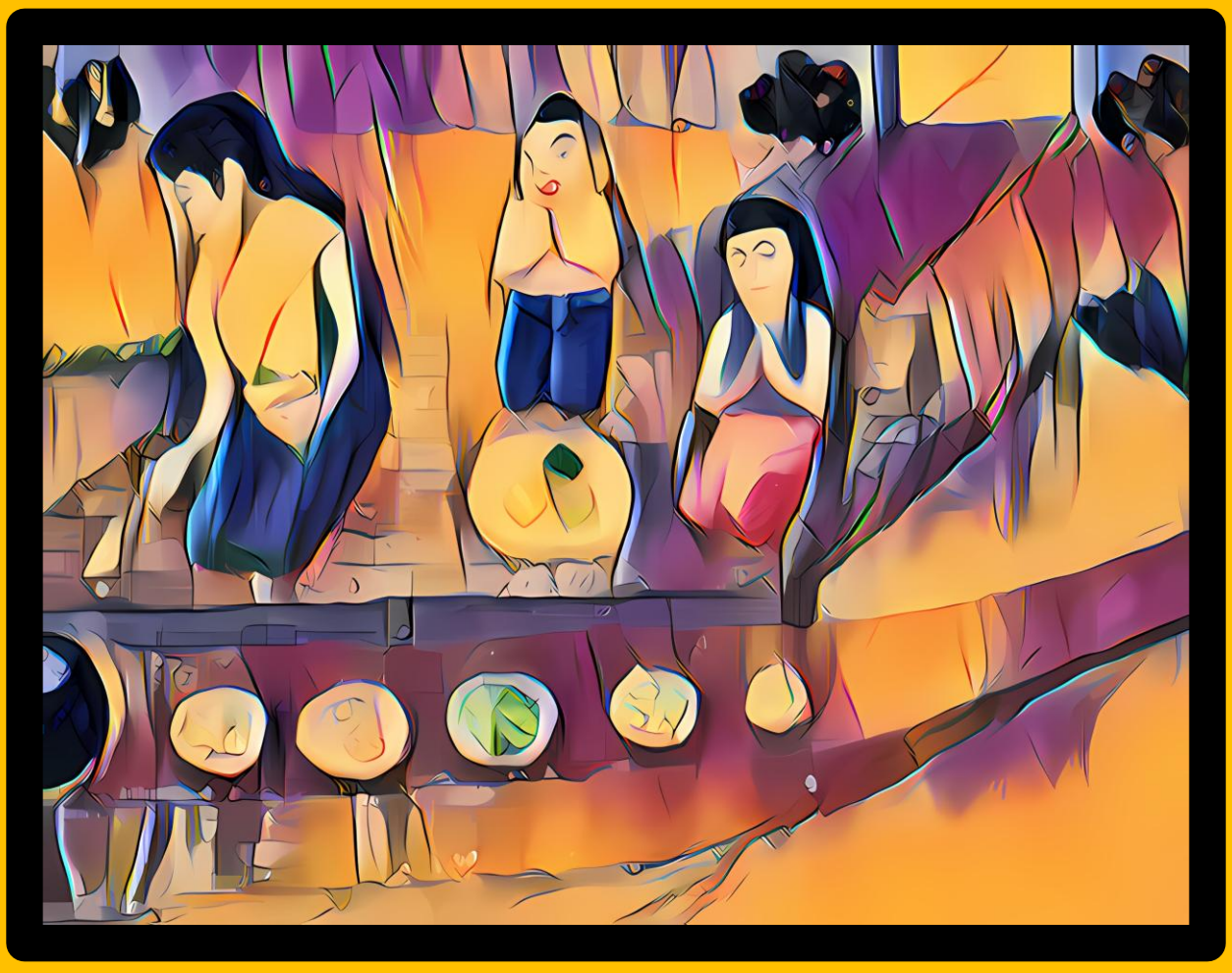
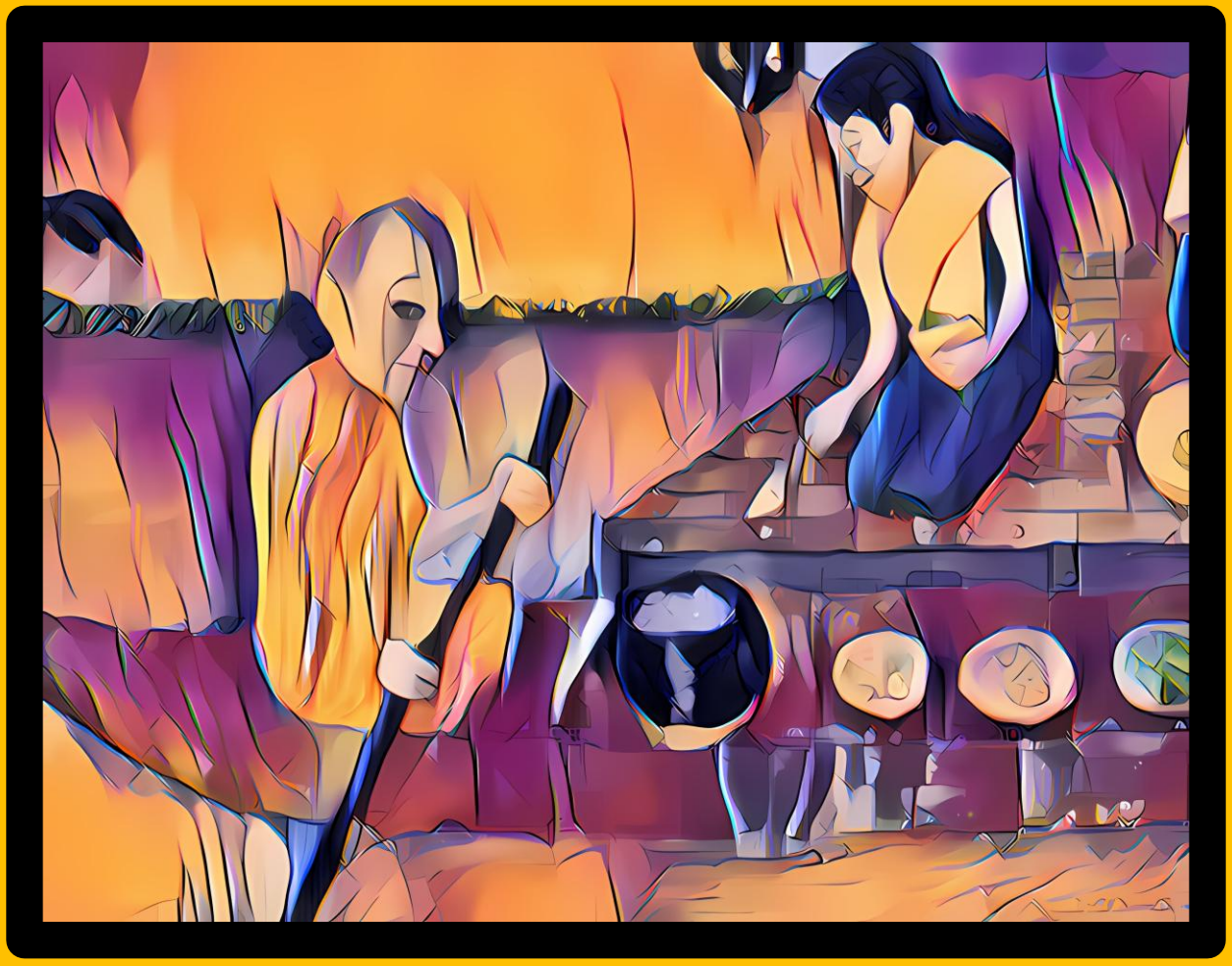
To the untrained eye, these images might appear merely ornamental; however, equipped with a Harmonic Frequency Modulator (HFM) device for home use, I was able to adjust the frequencies and reveal the deeper narrative hidden within.

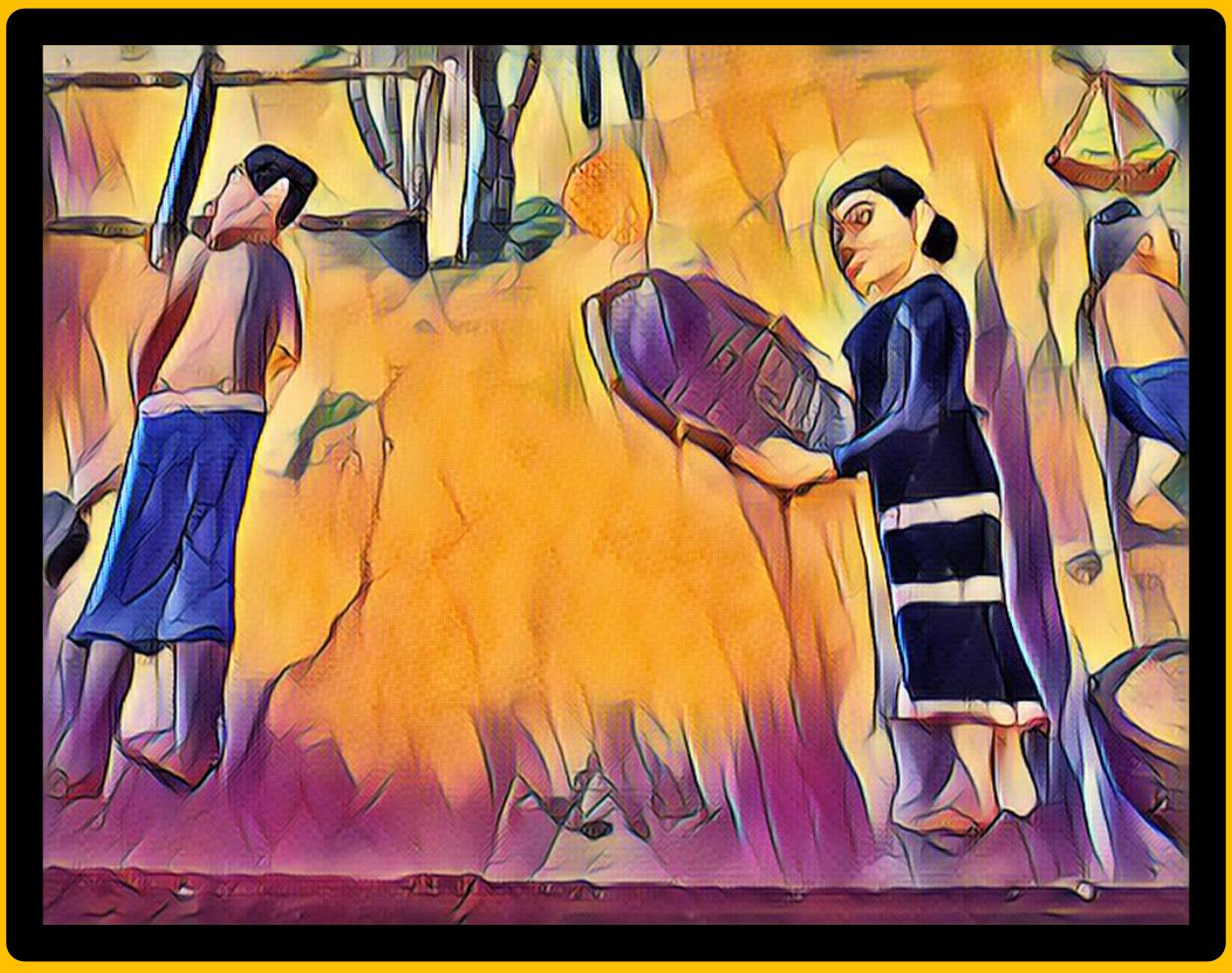
This experience allowed me to witness firsthand the stories that Preng had shared with me, and I am eager to present, with these illustrations, this glimpse into a past that once was.

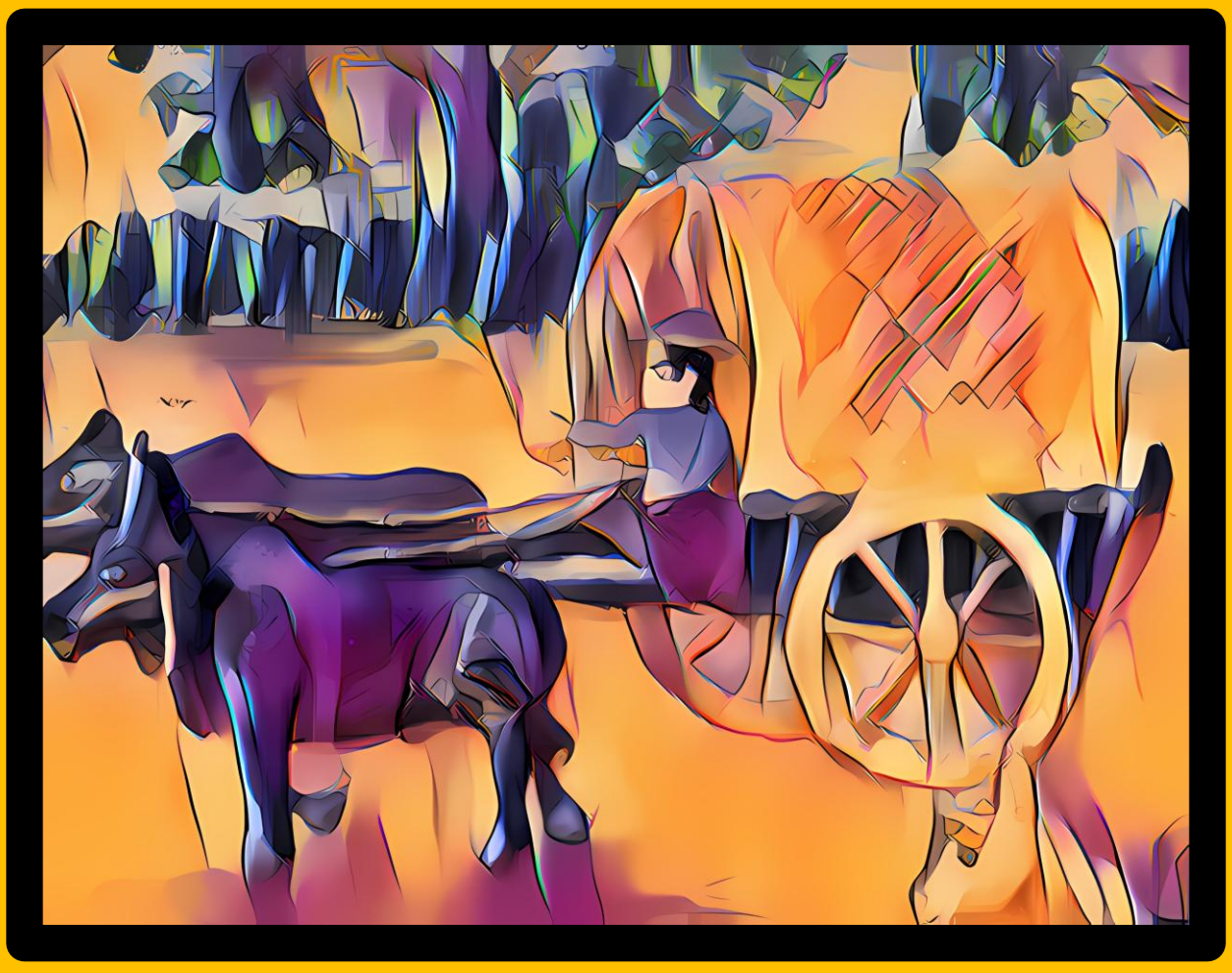


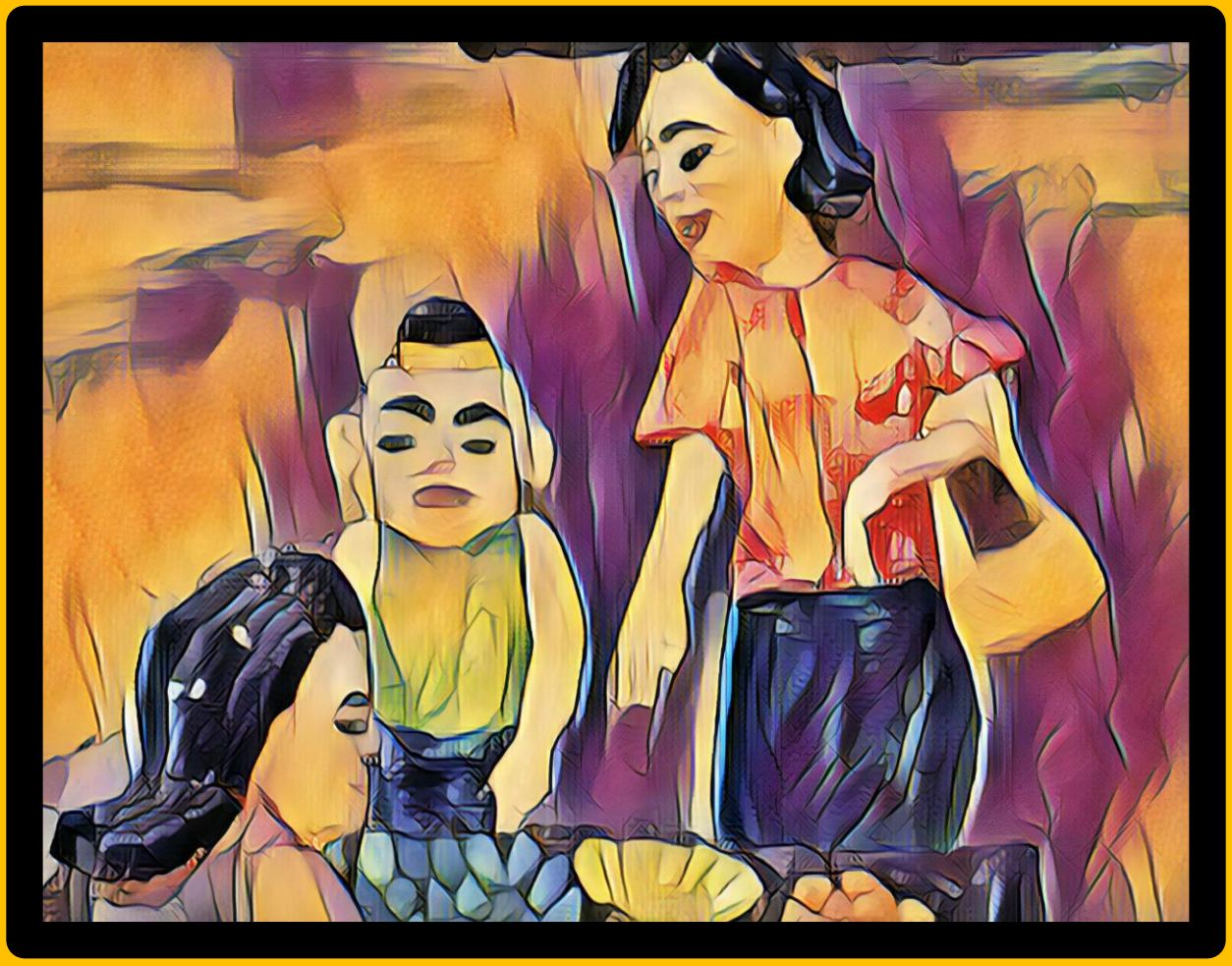


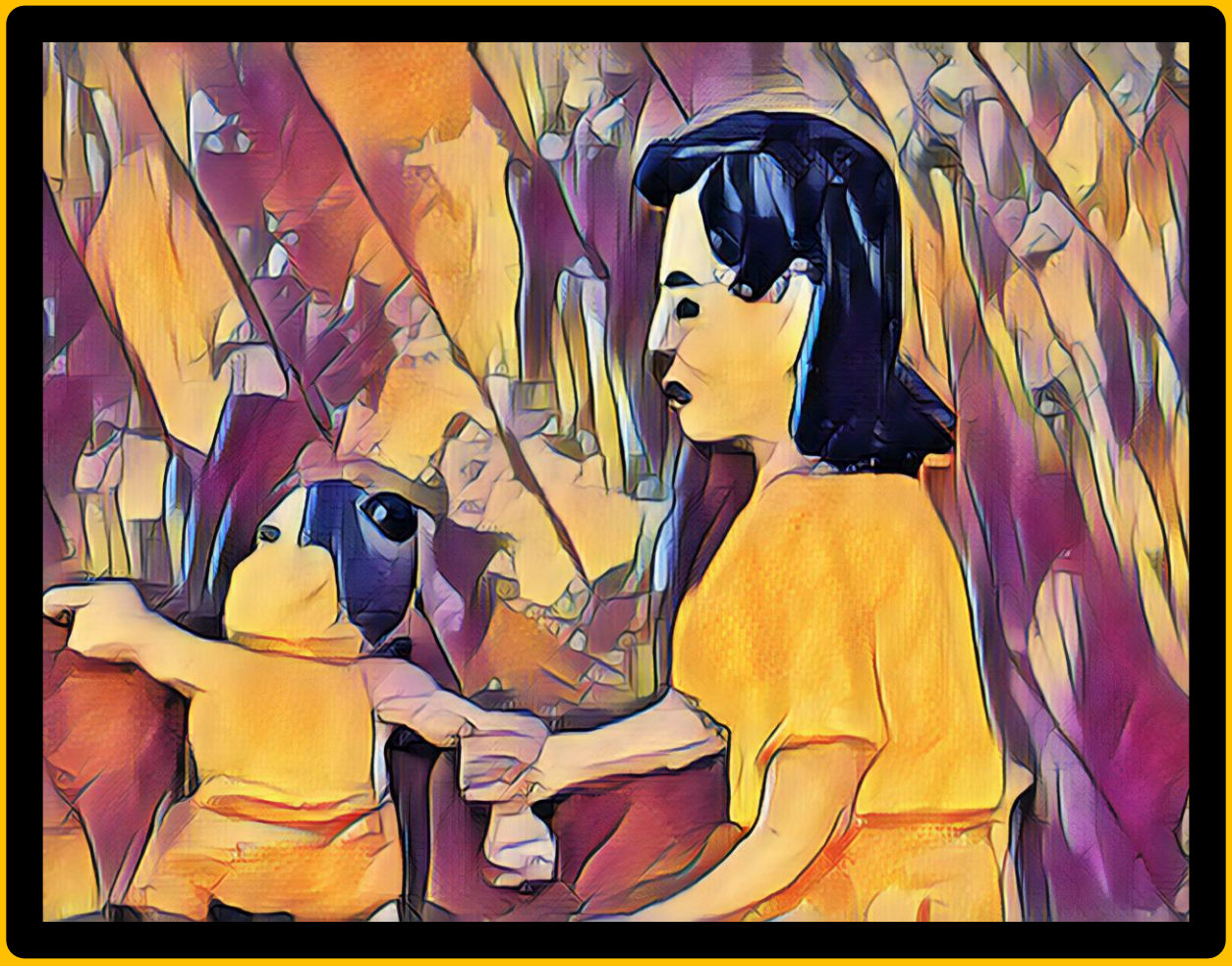


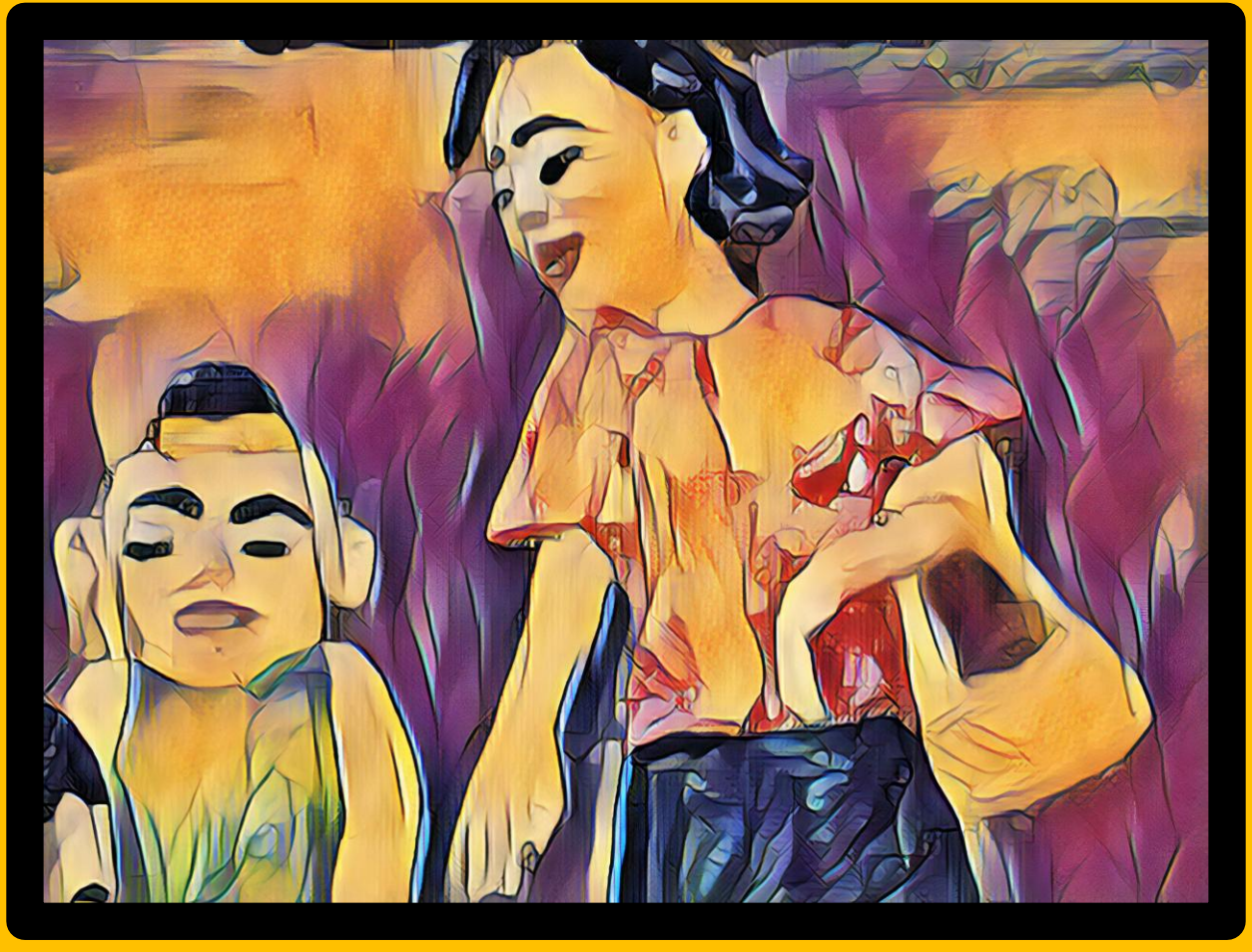


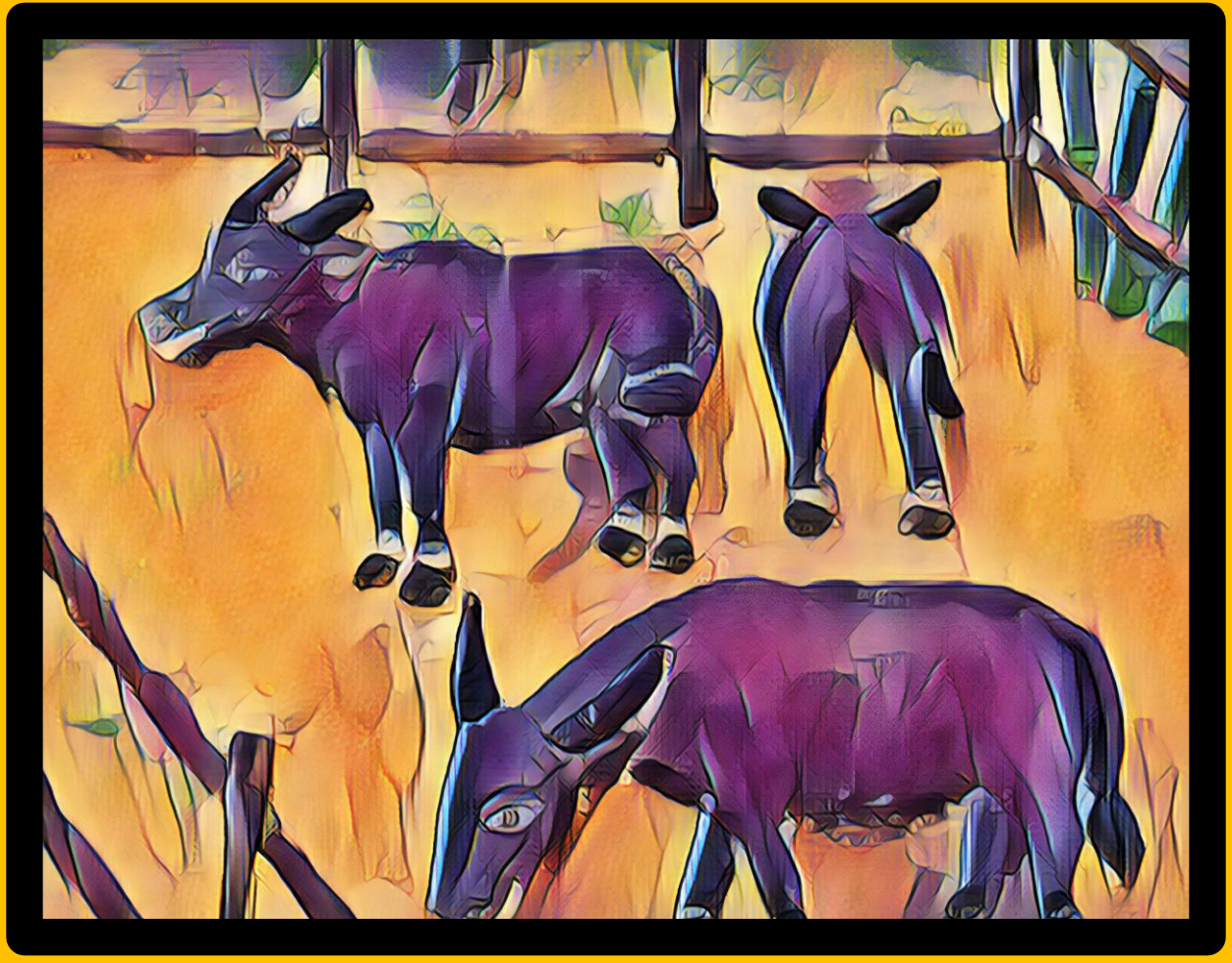


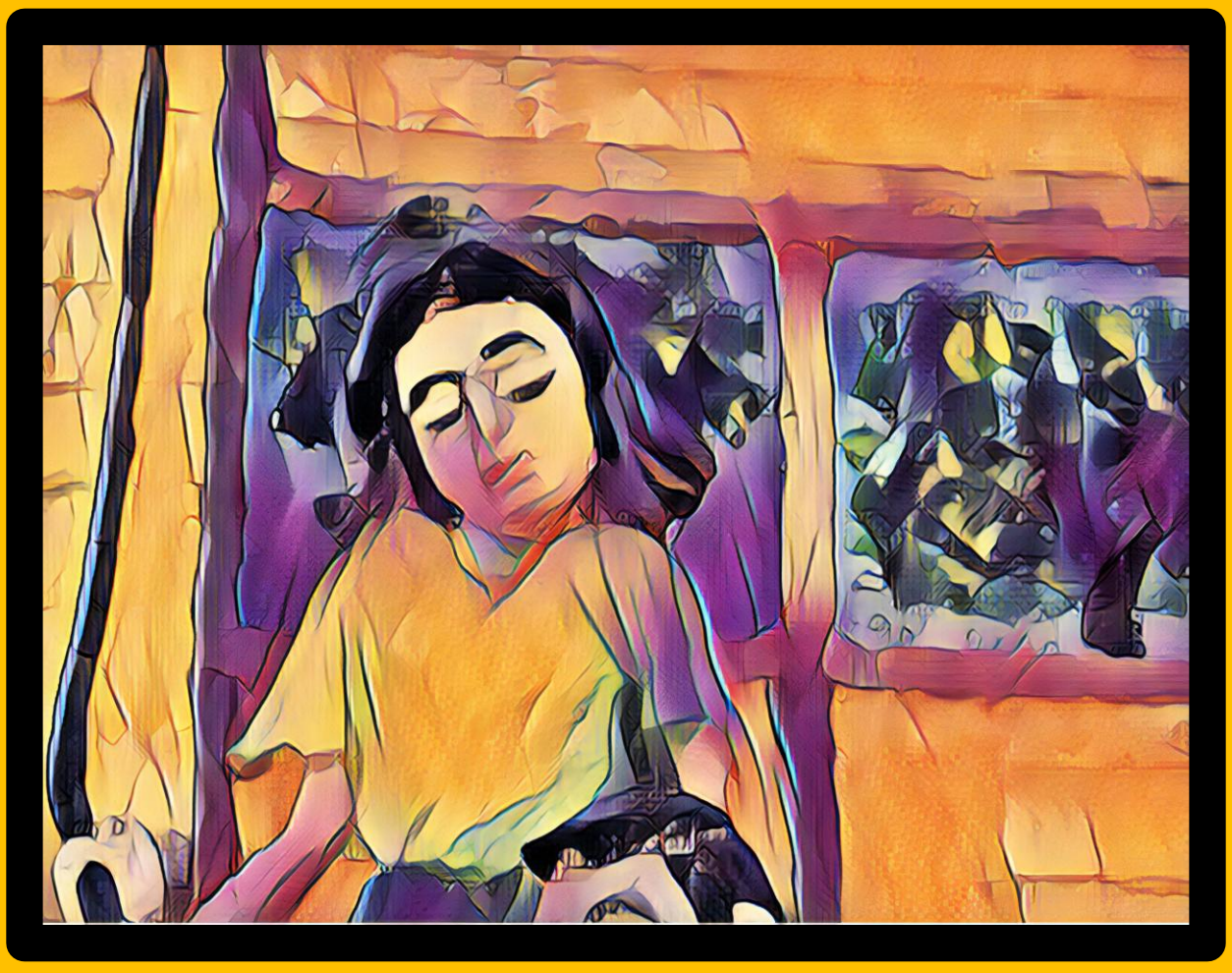


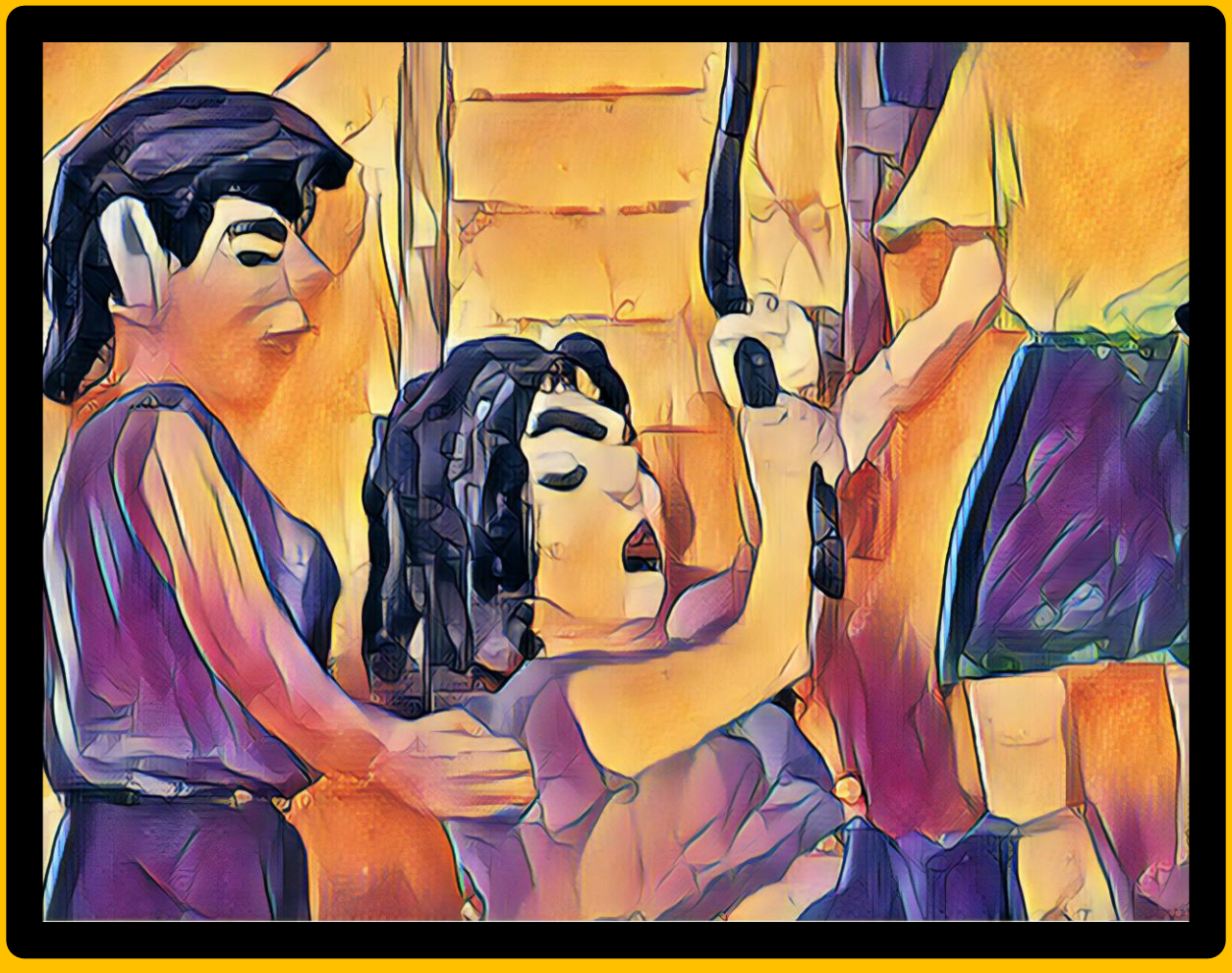


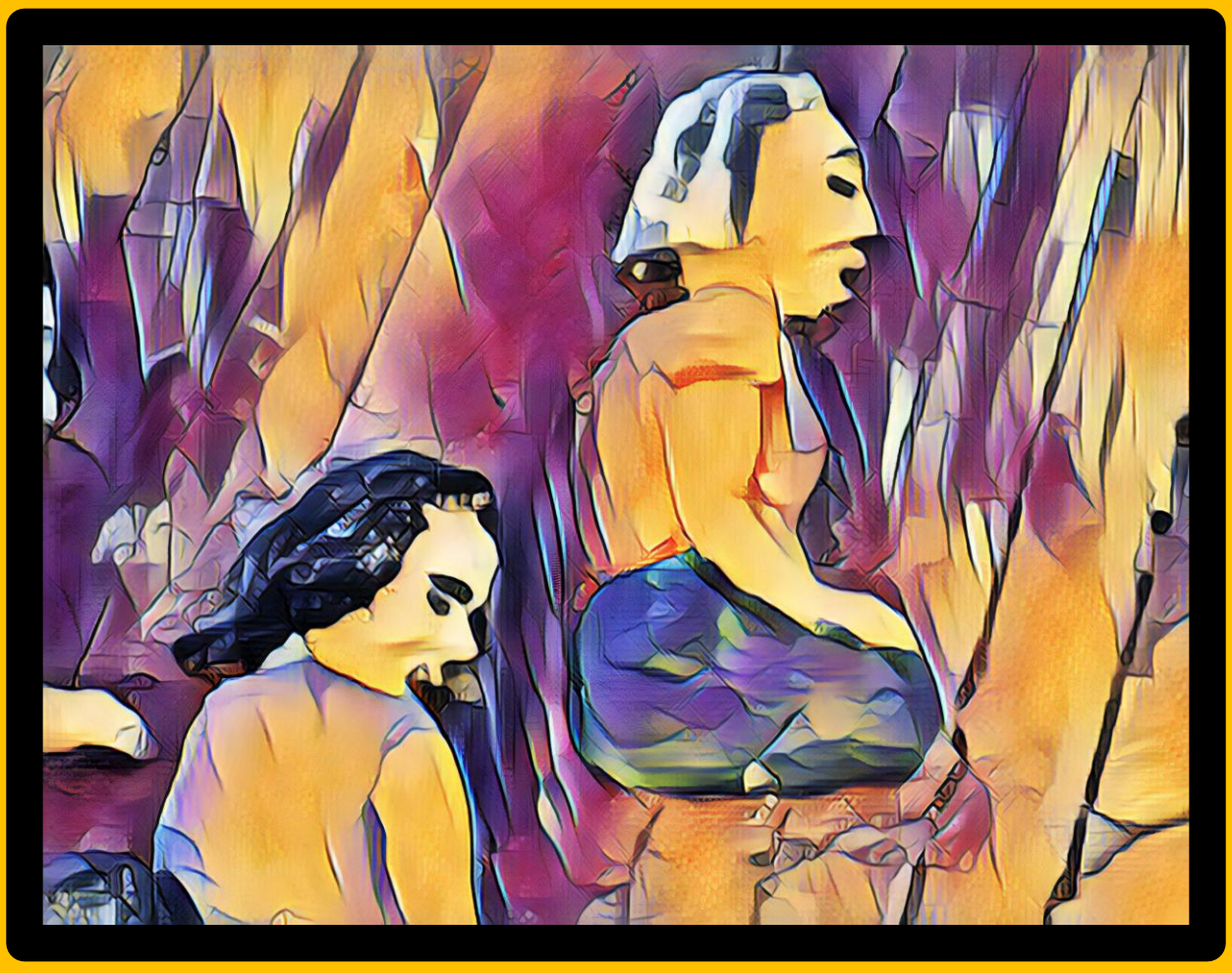


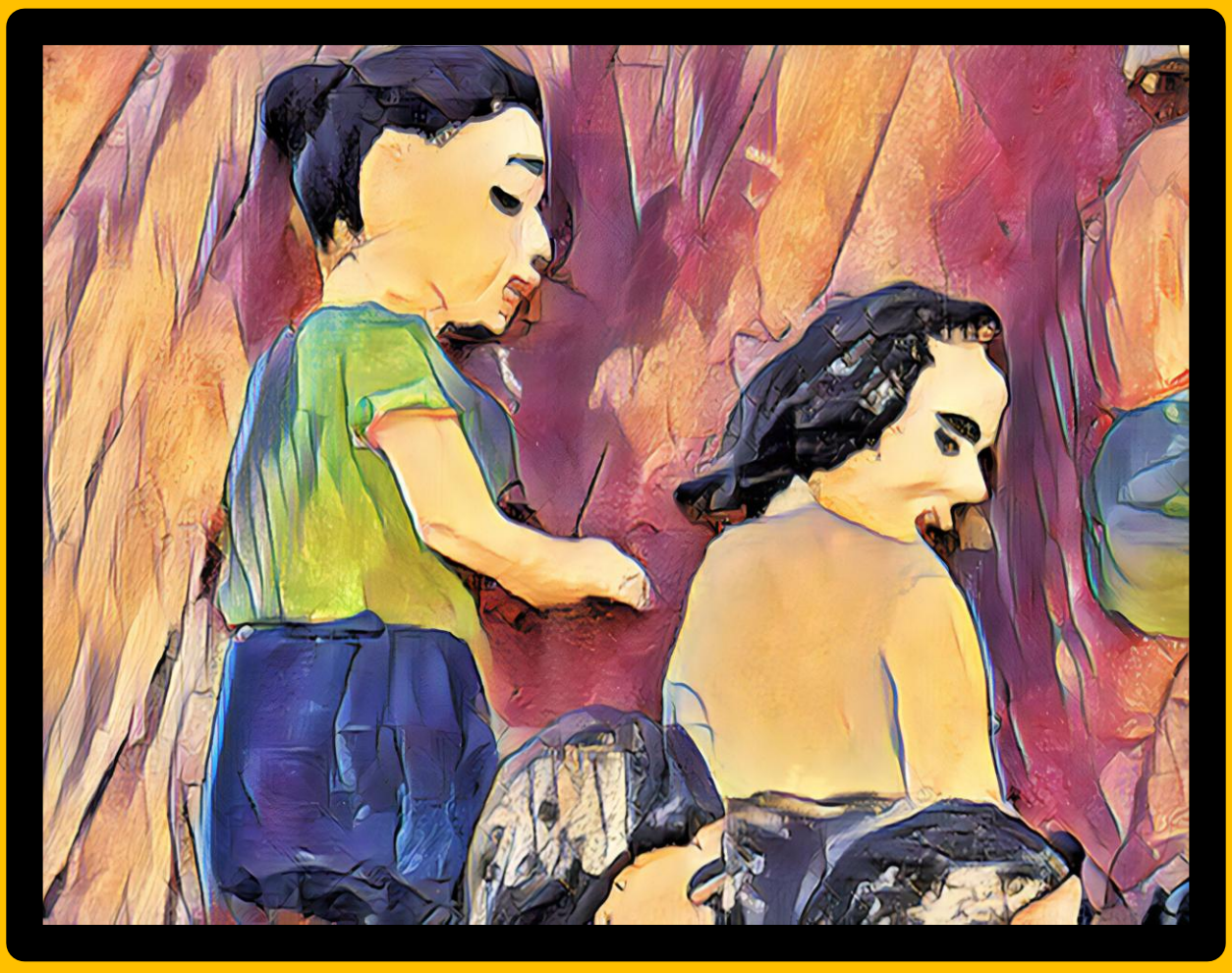


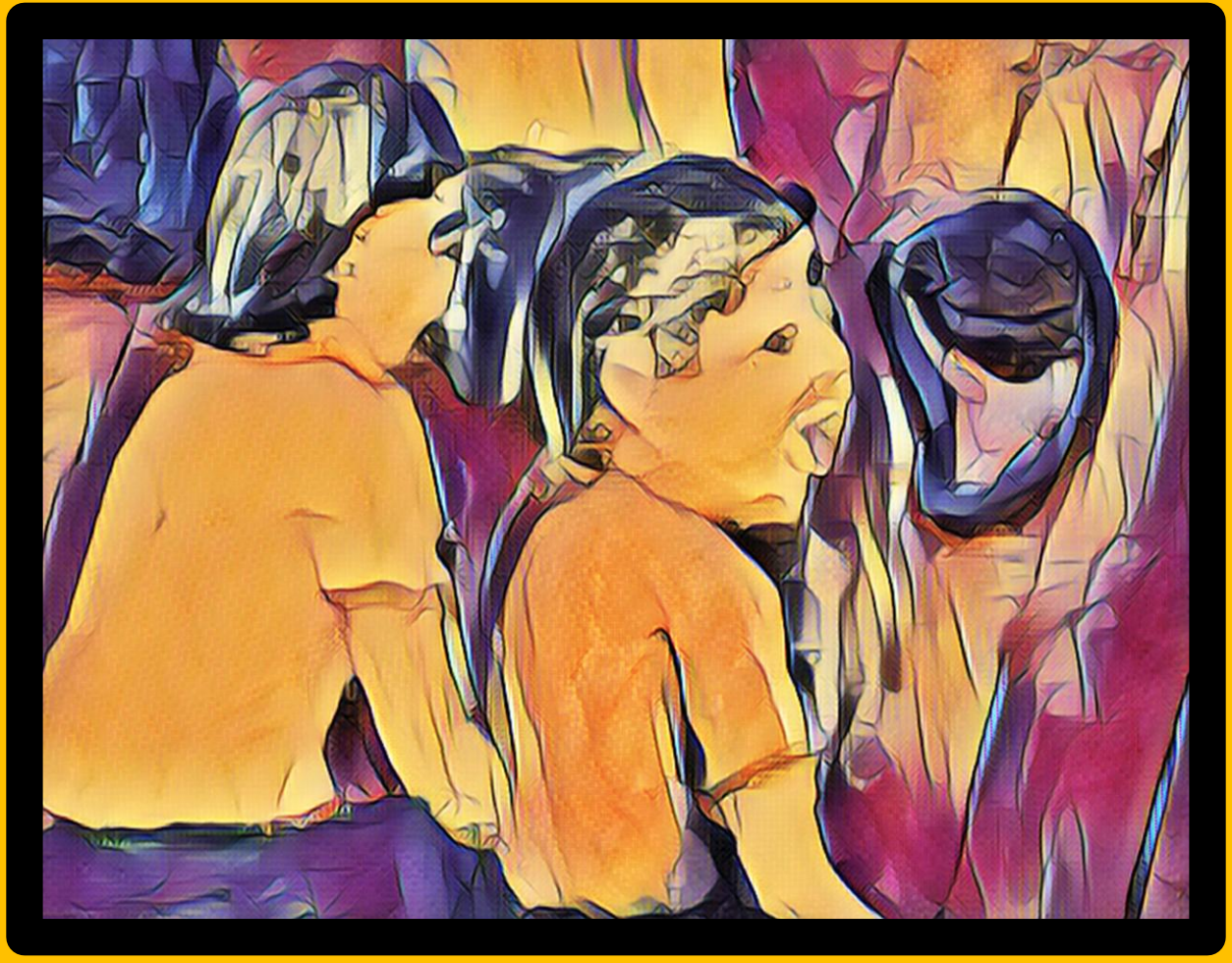


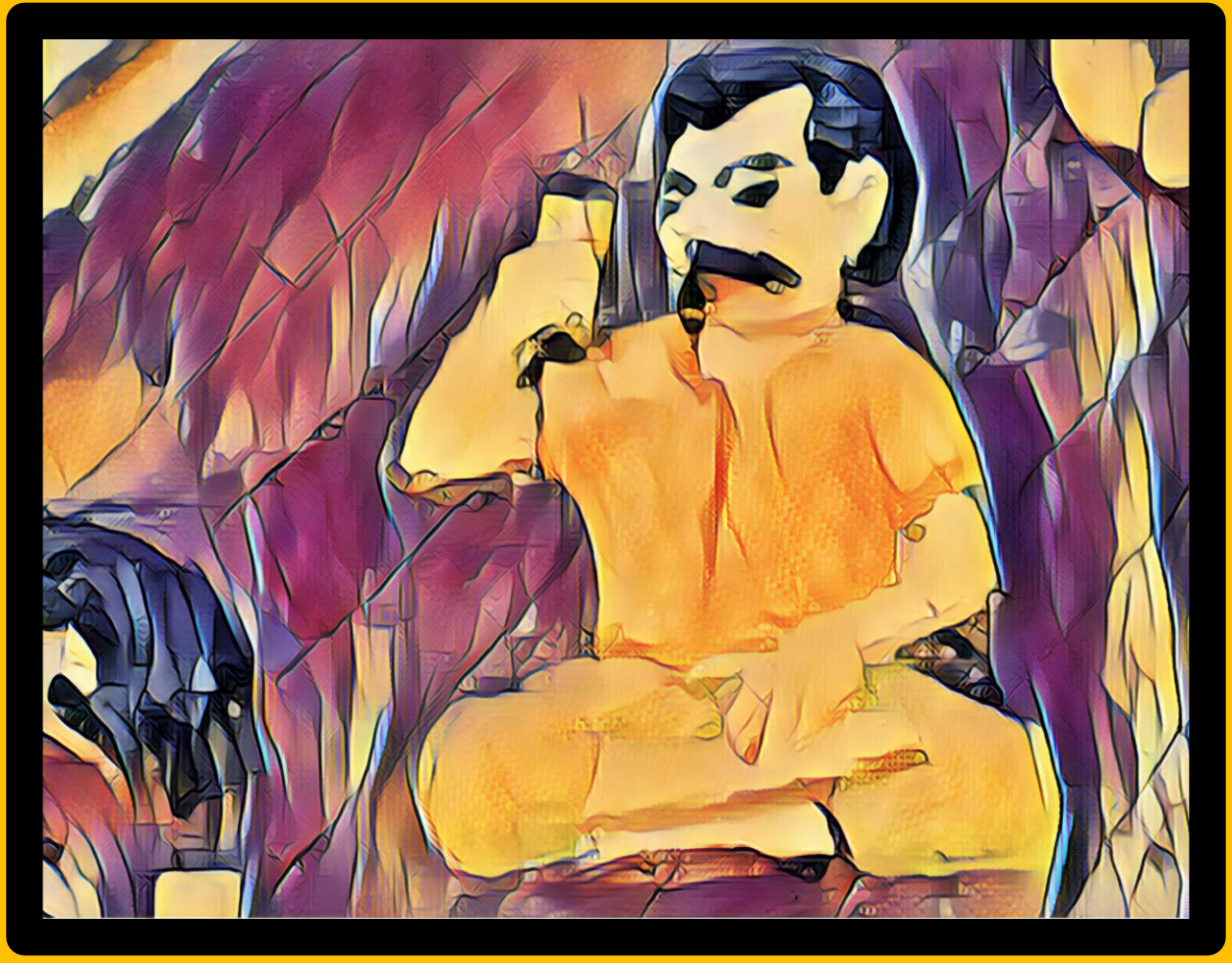


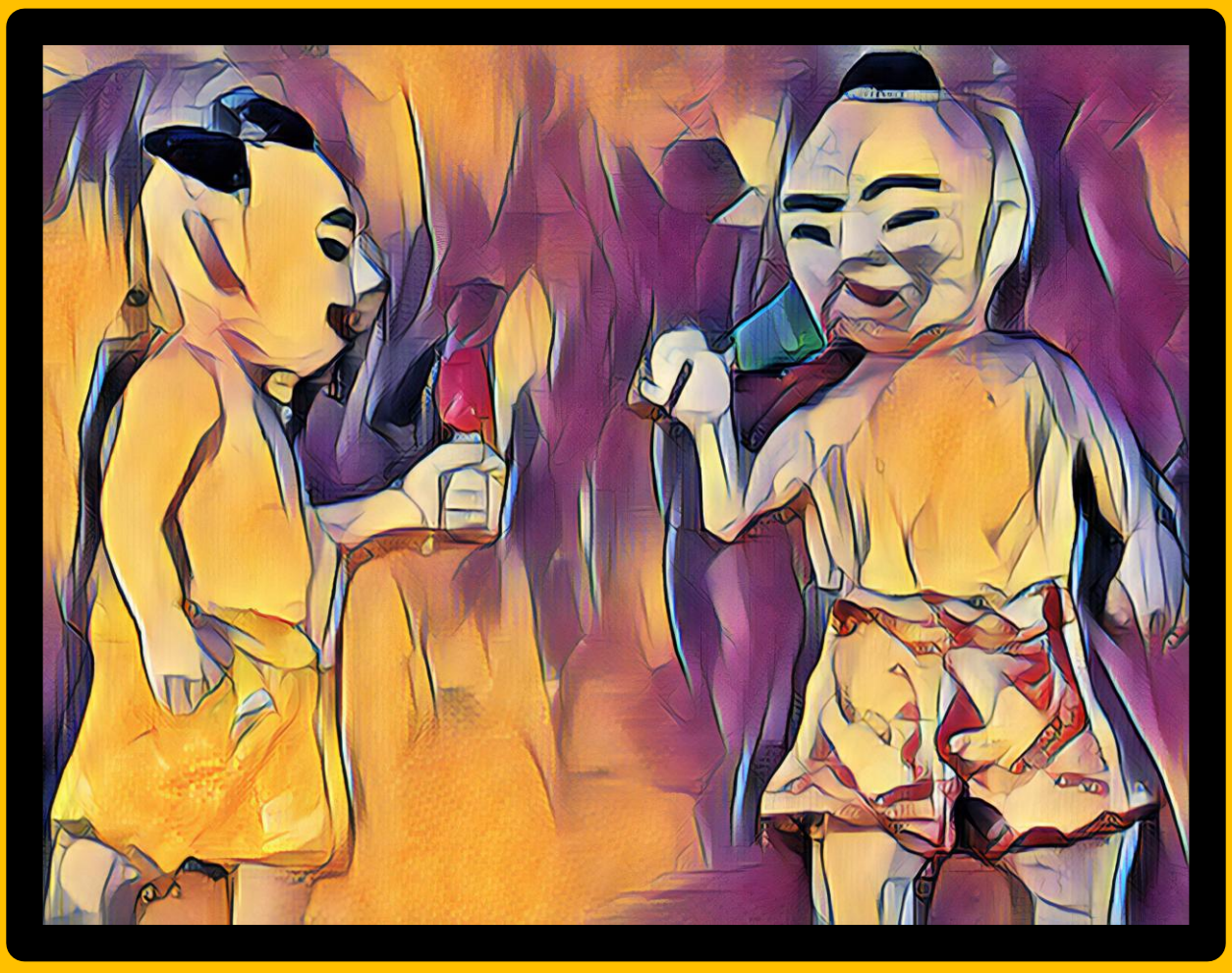


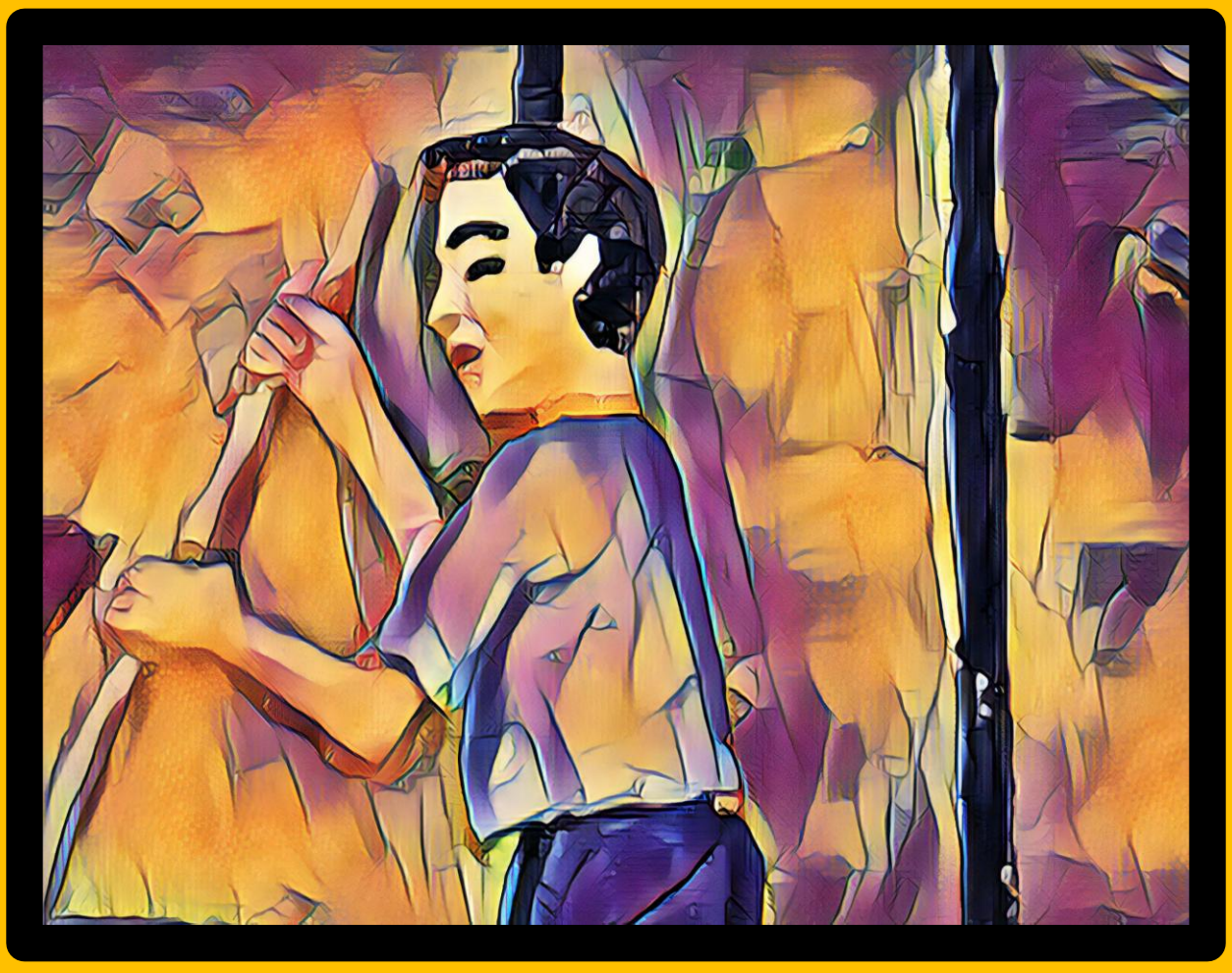


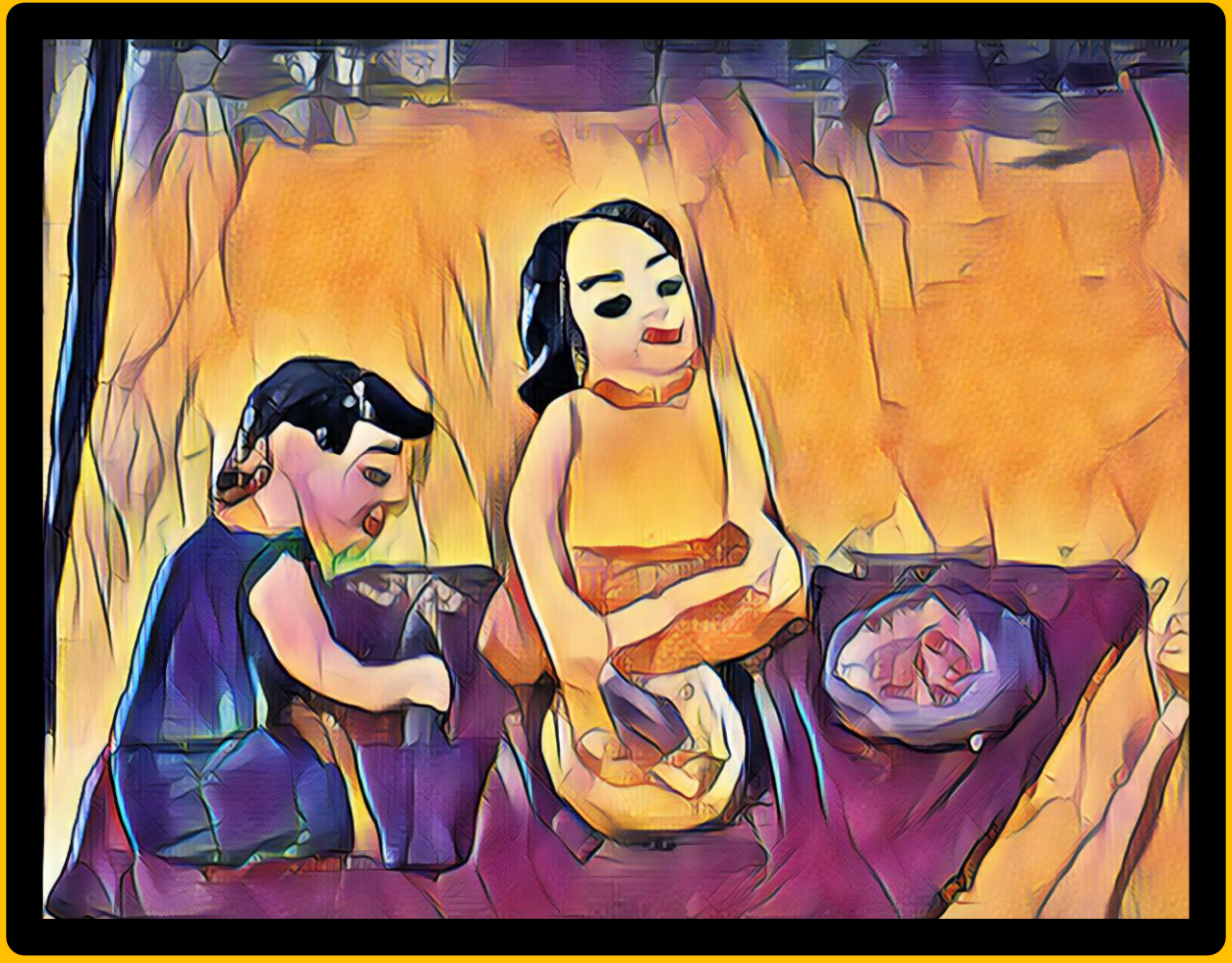


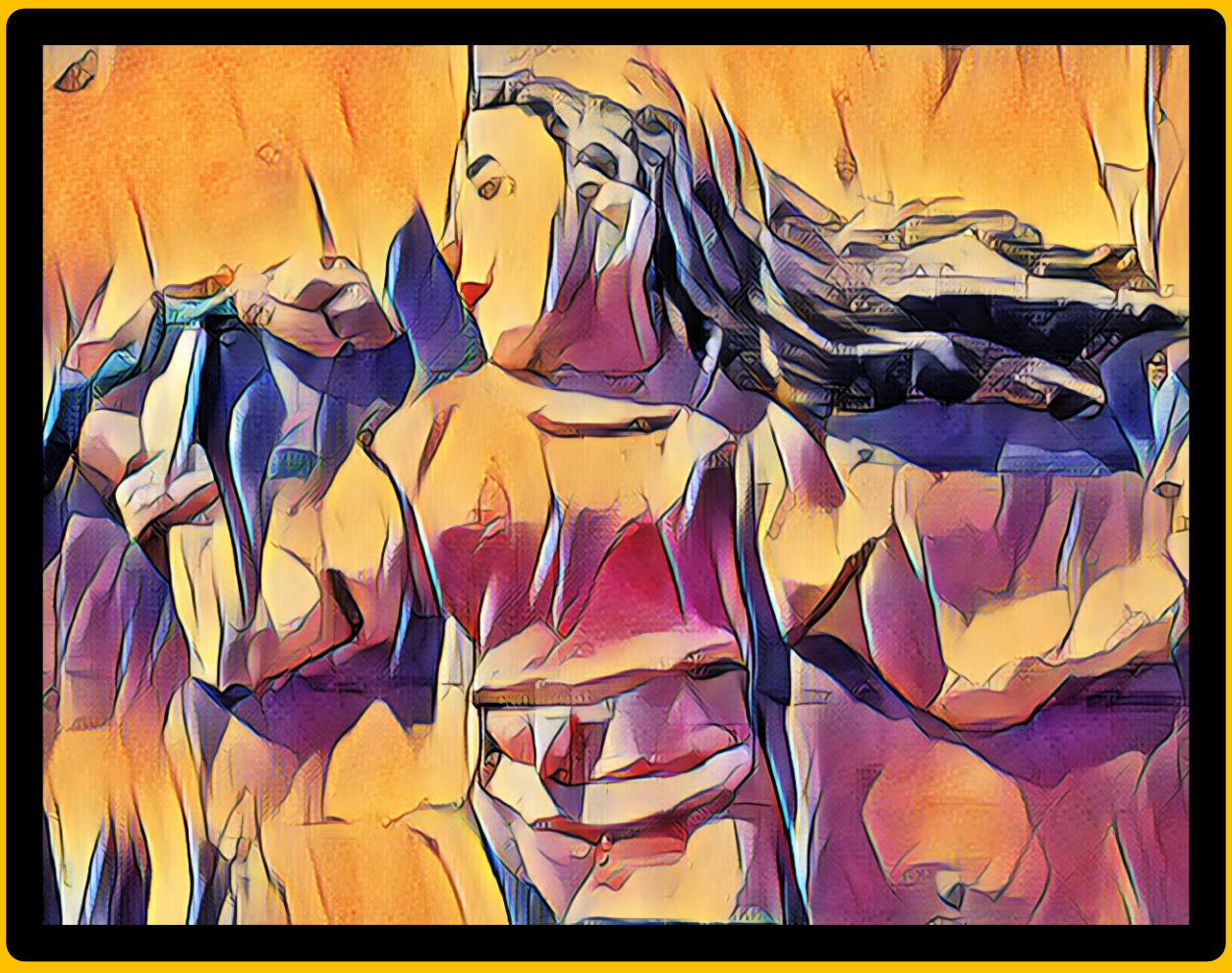


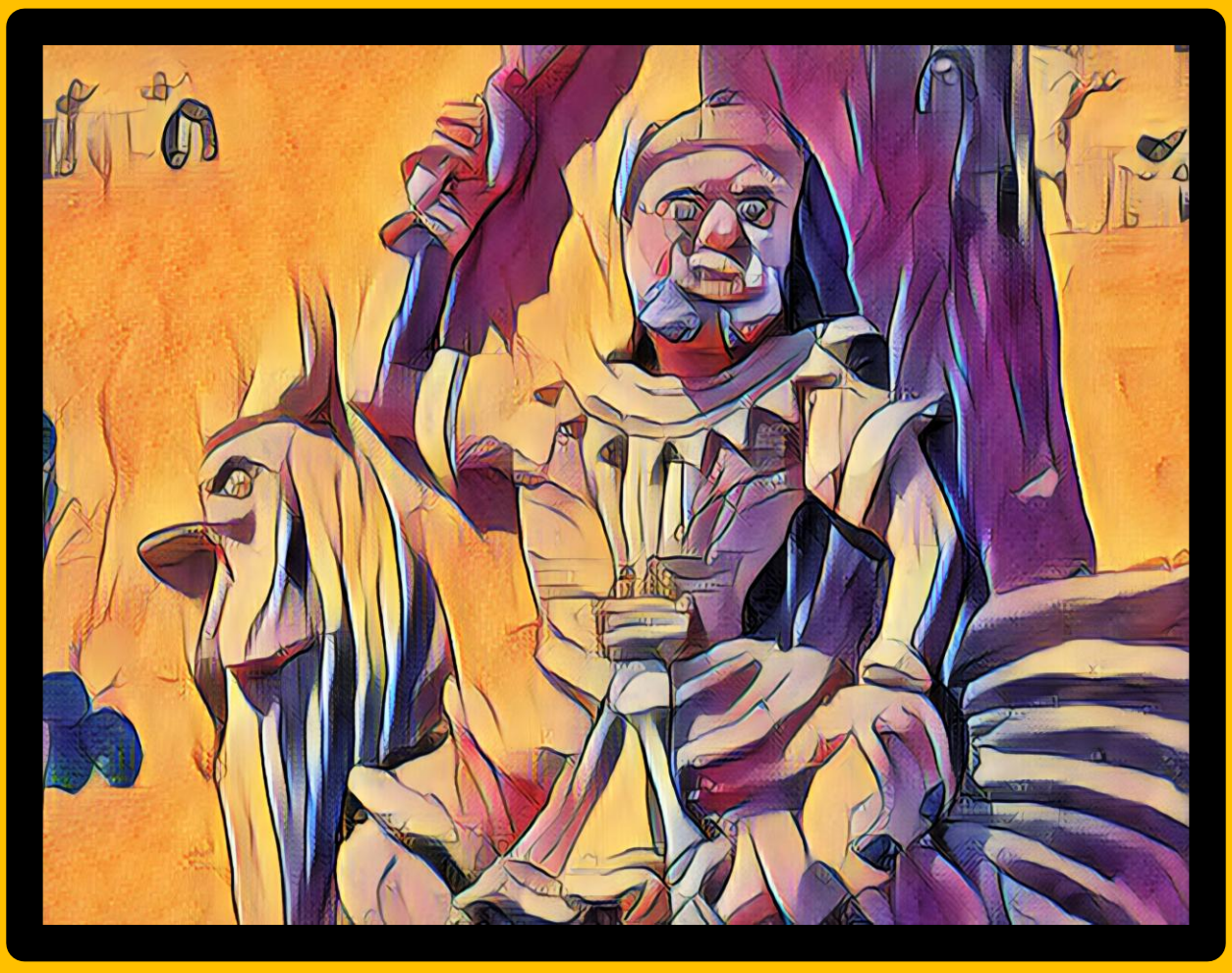


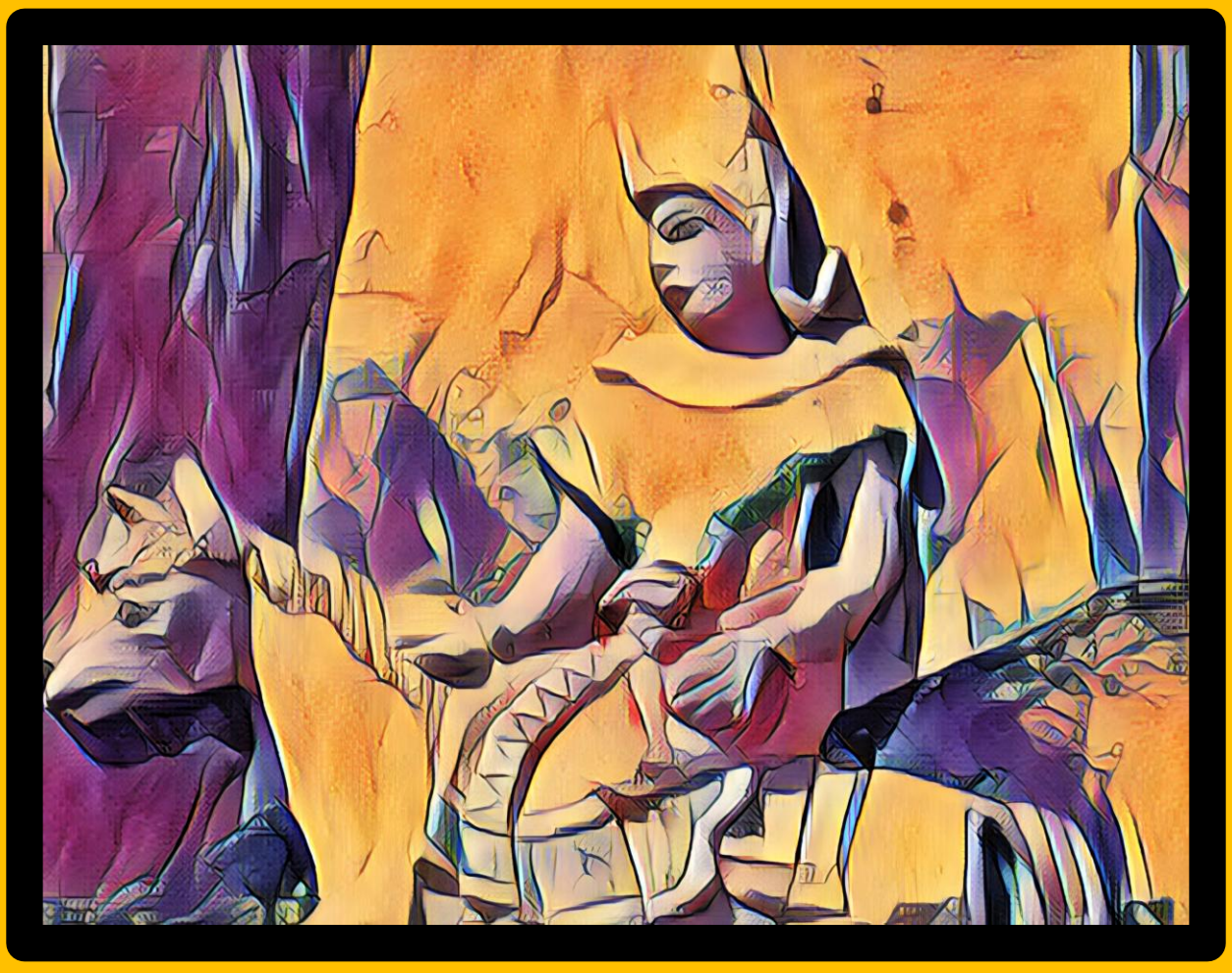


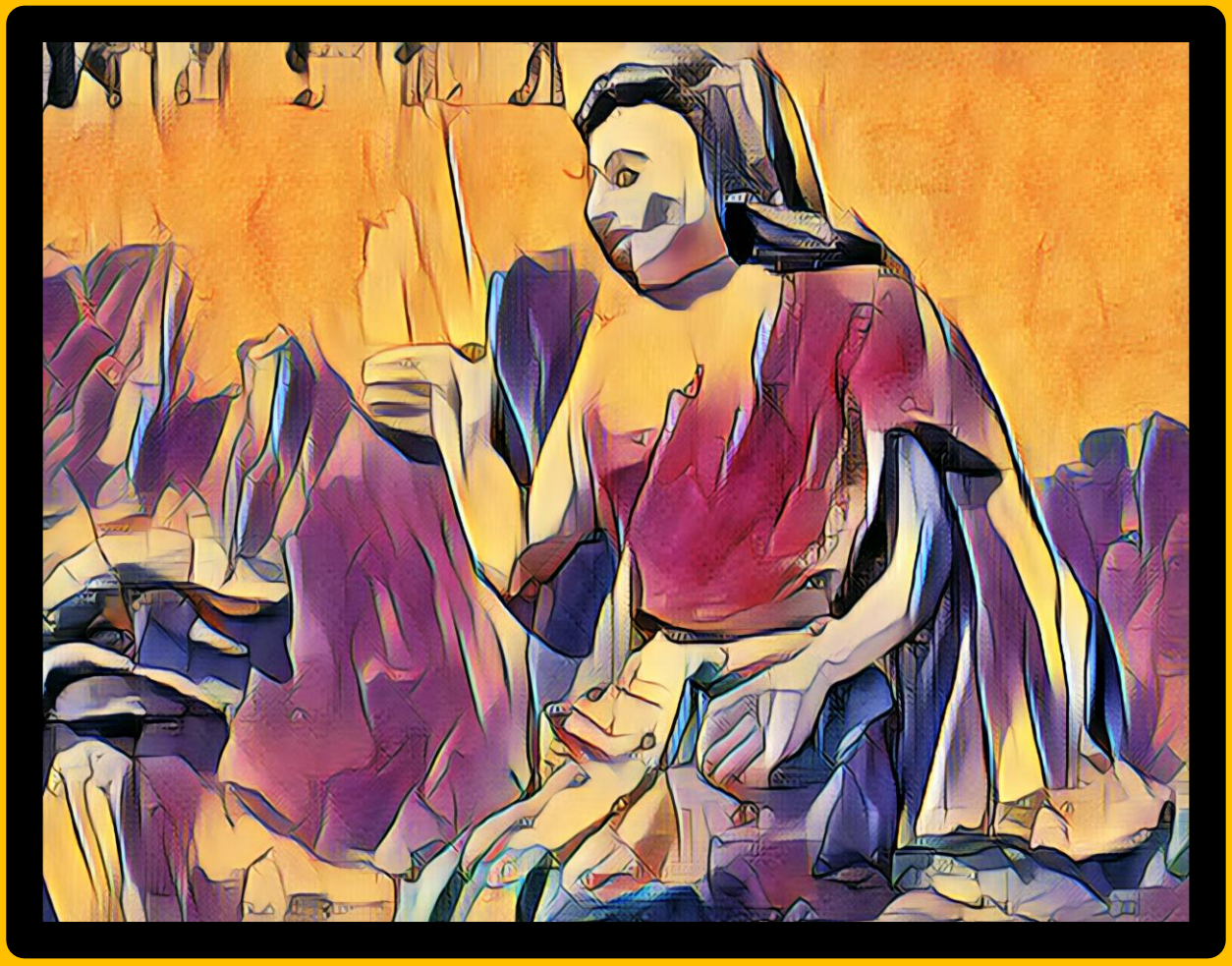


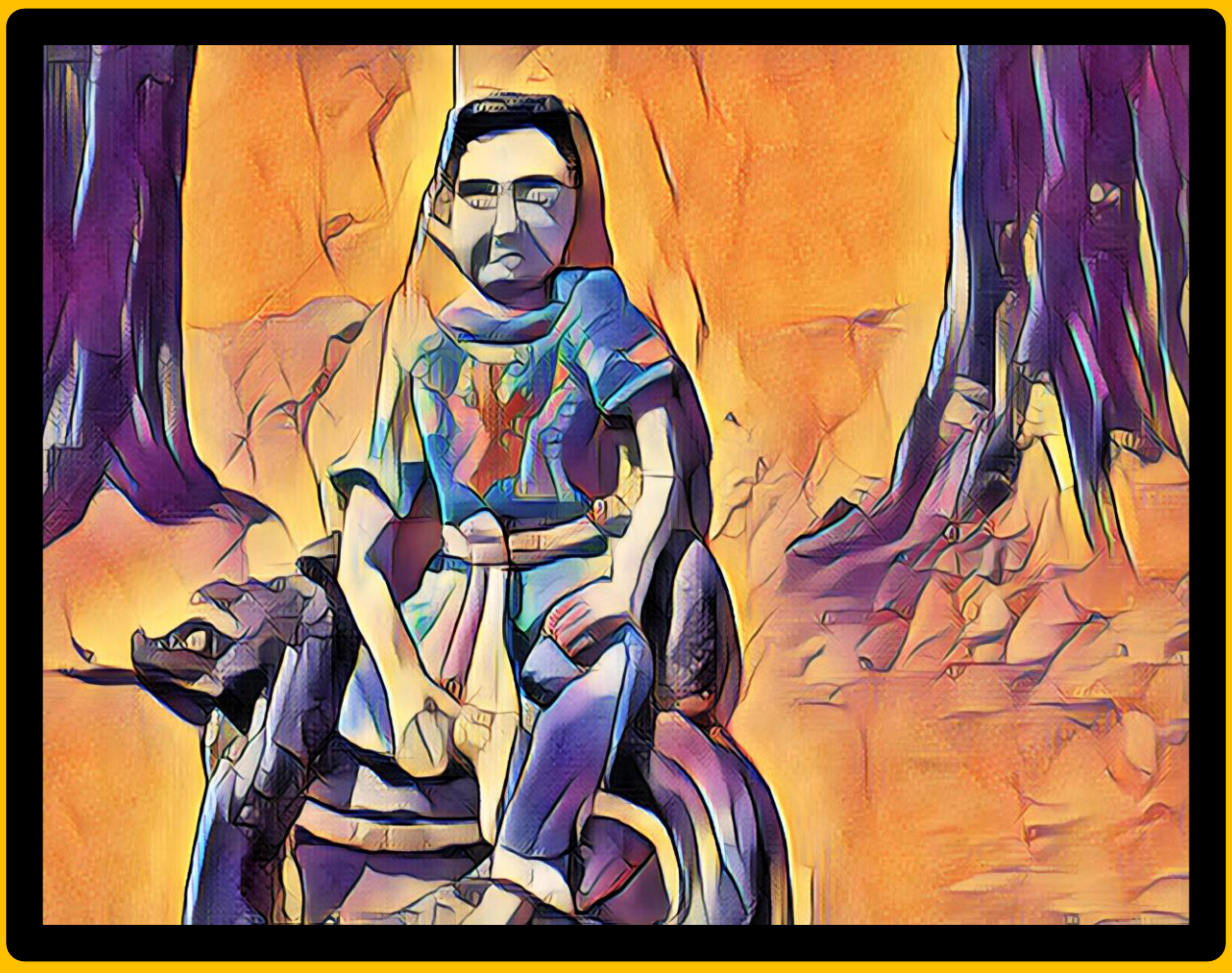


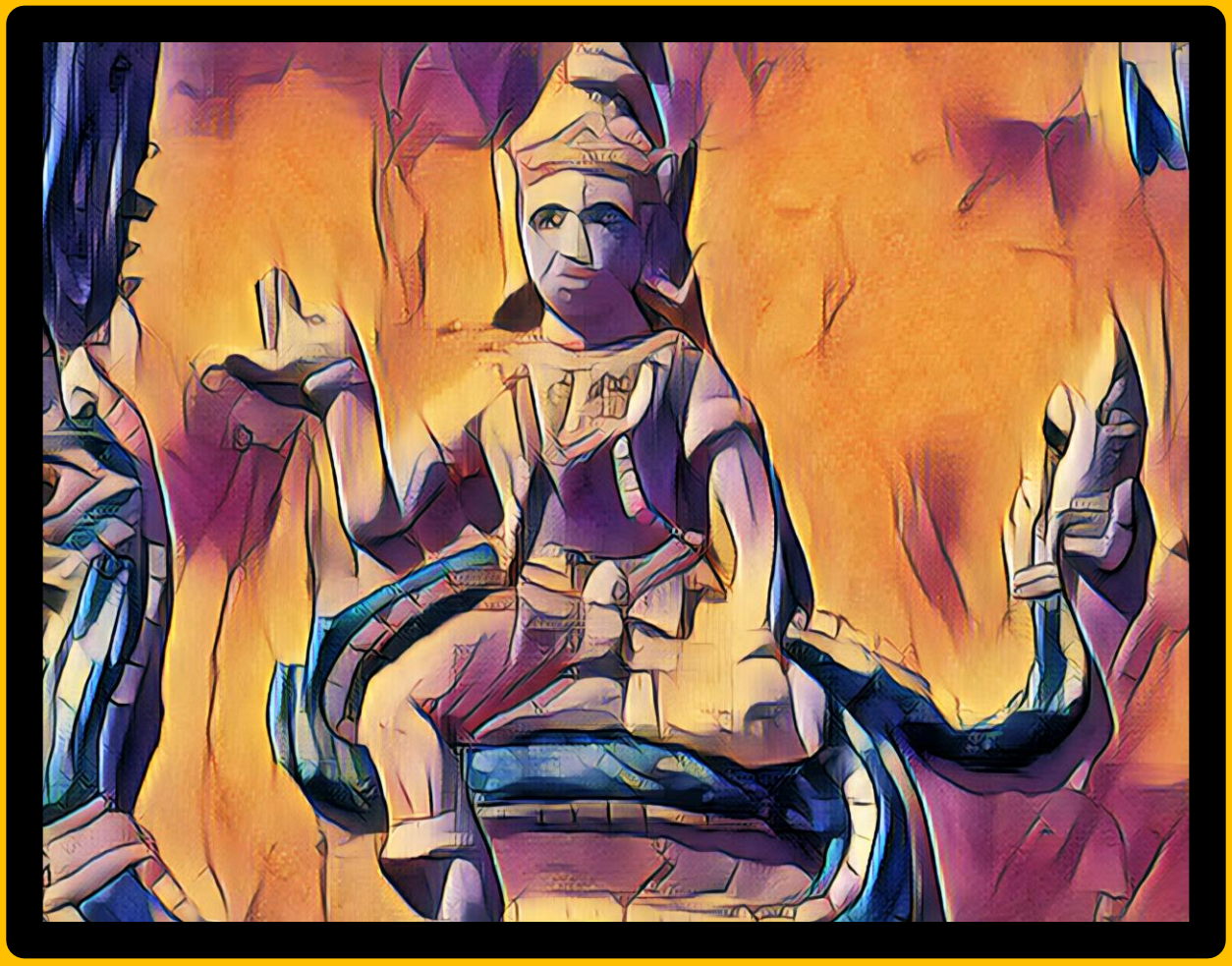


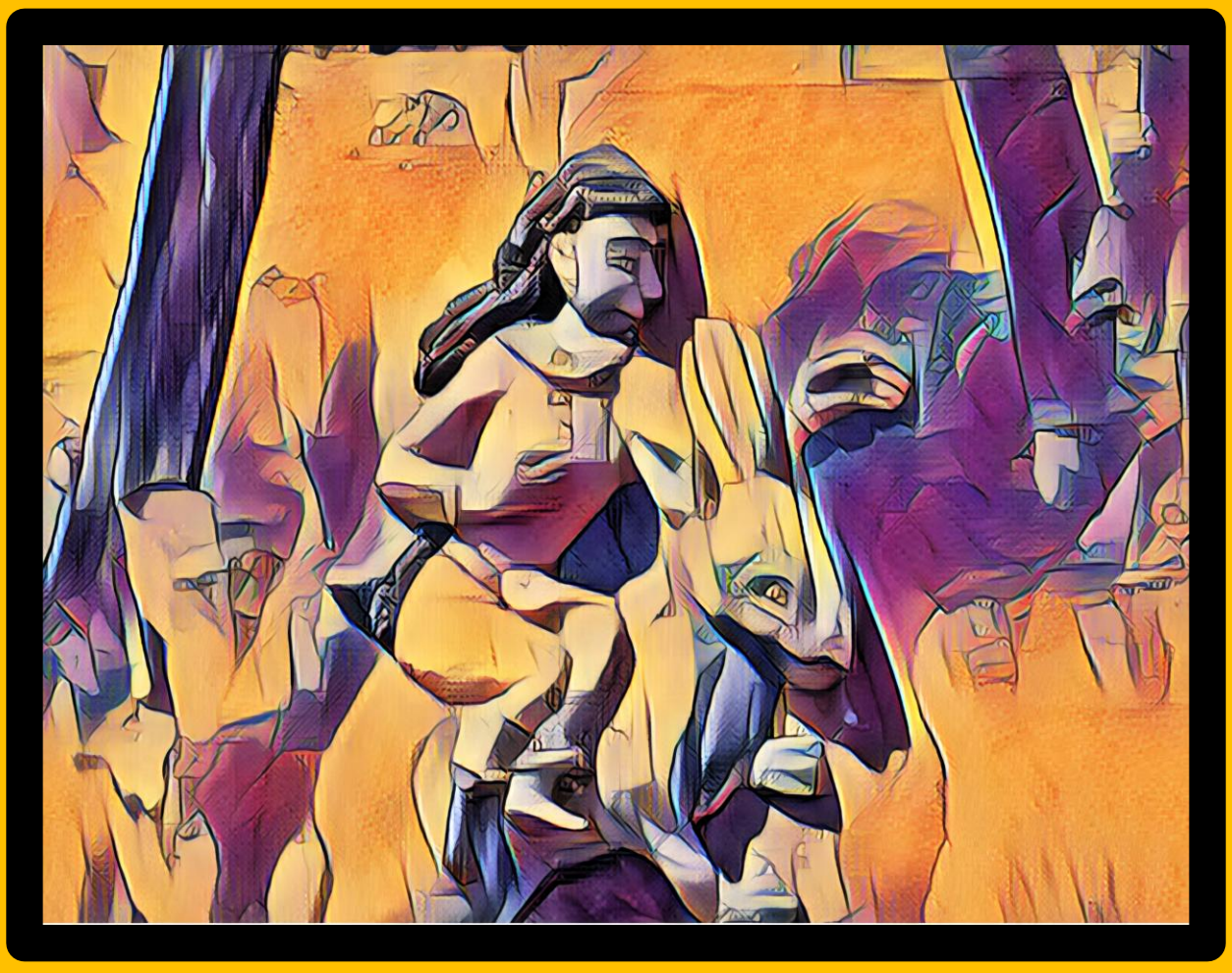


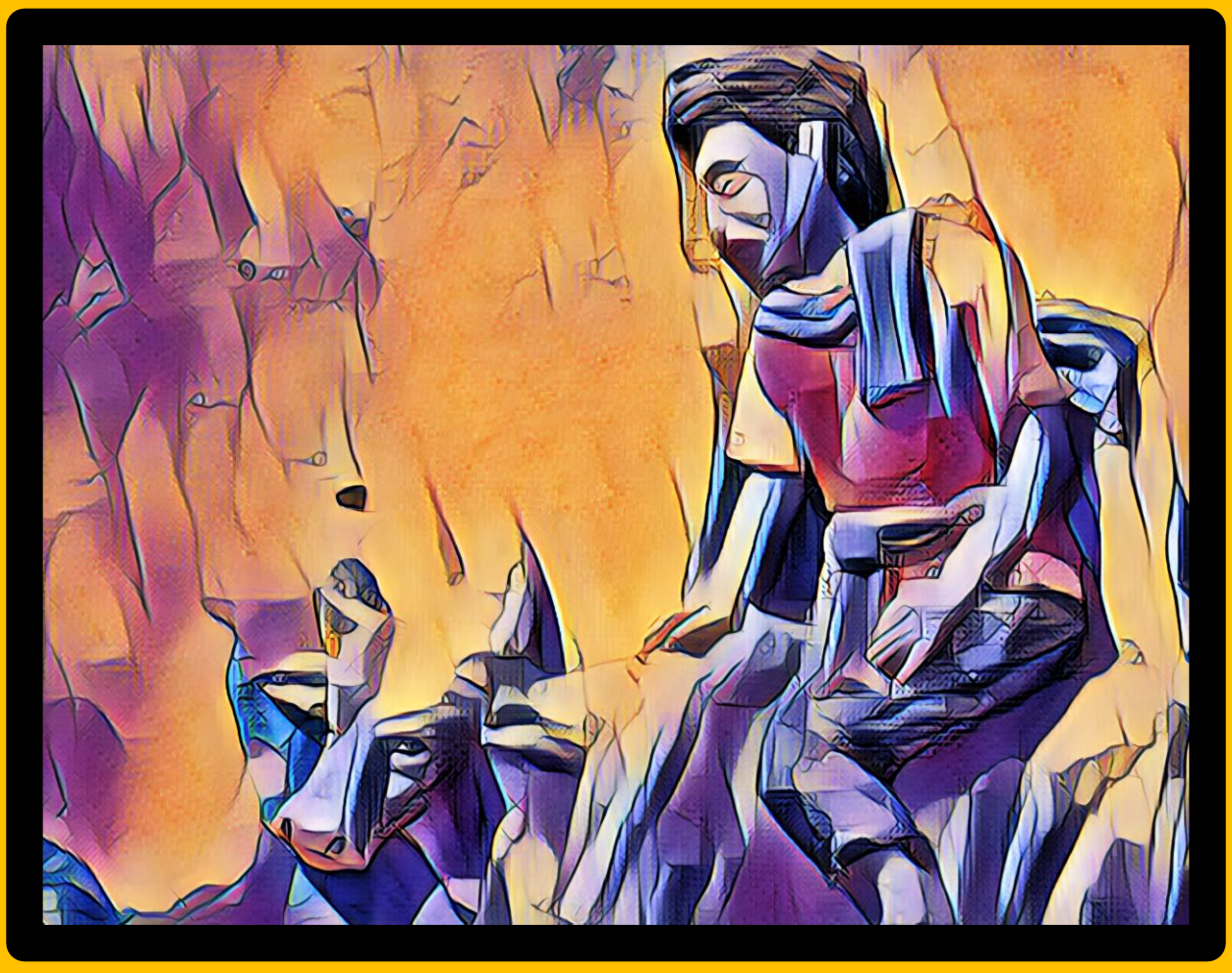


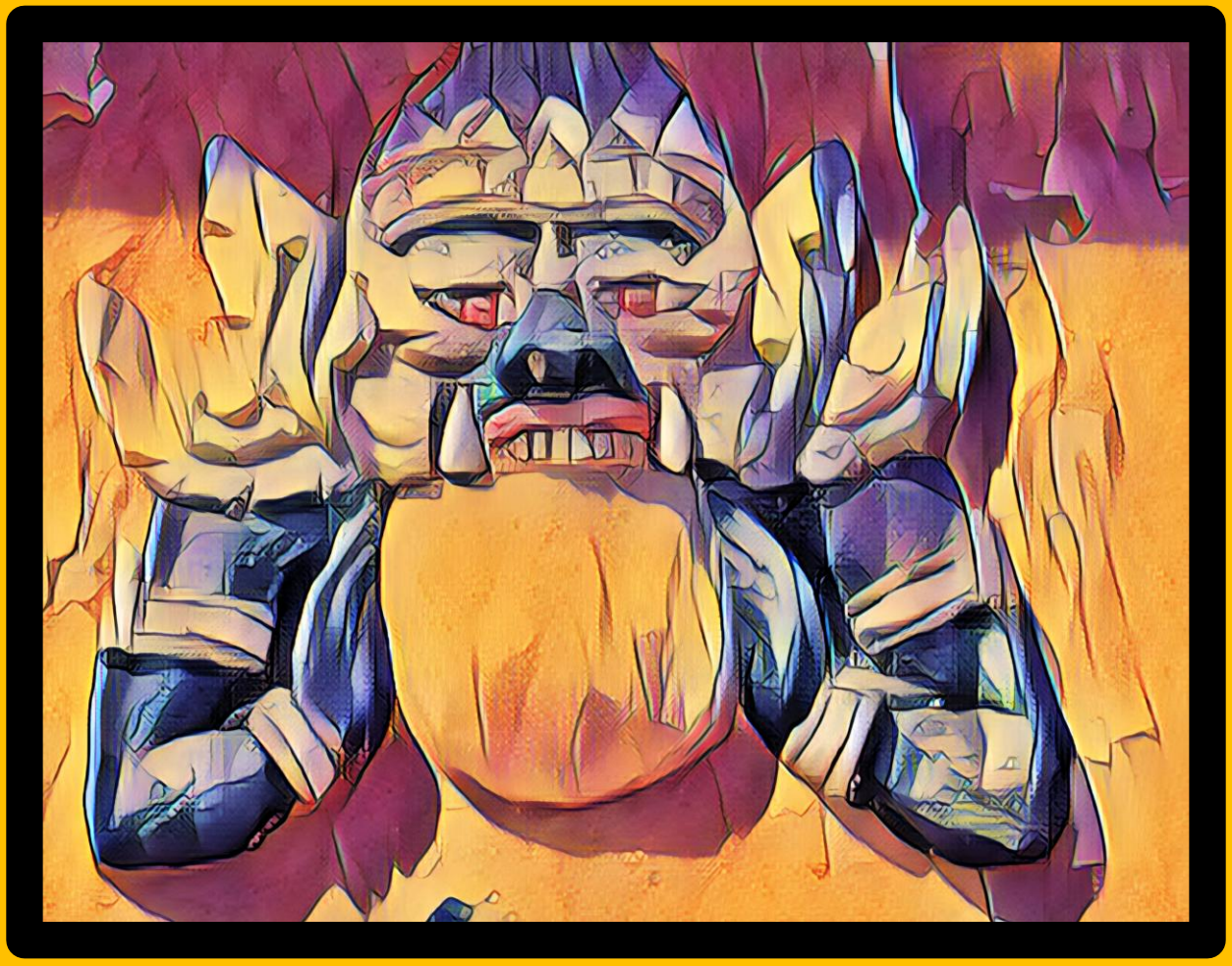


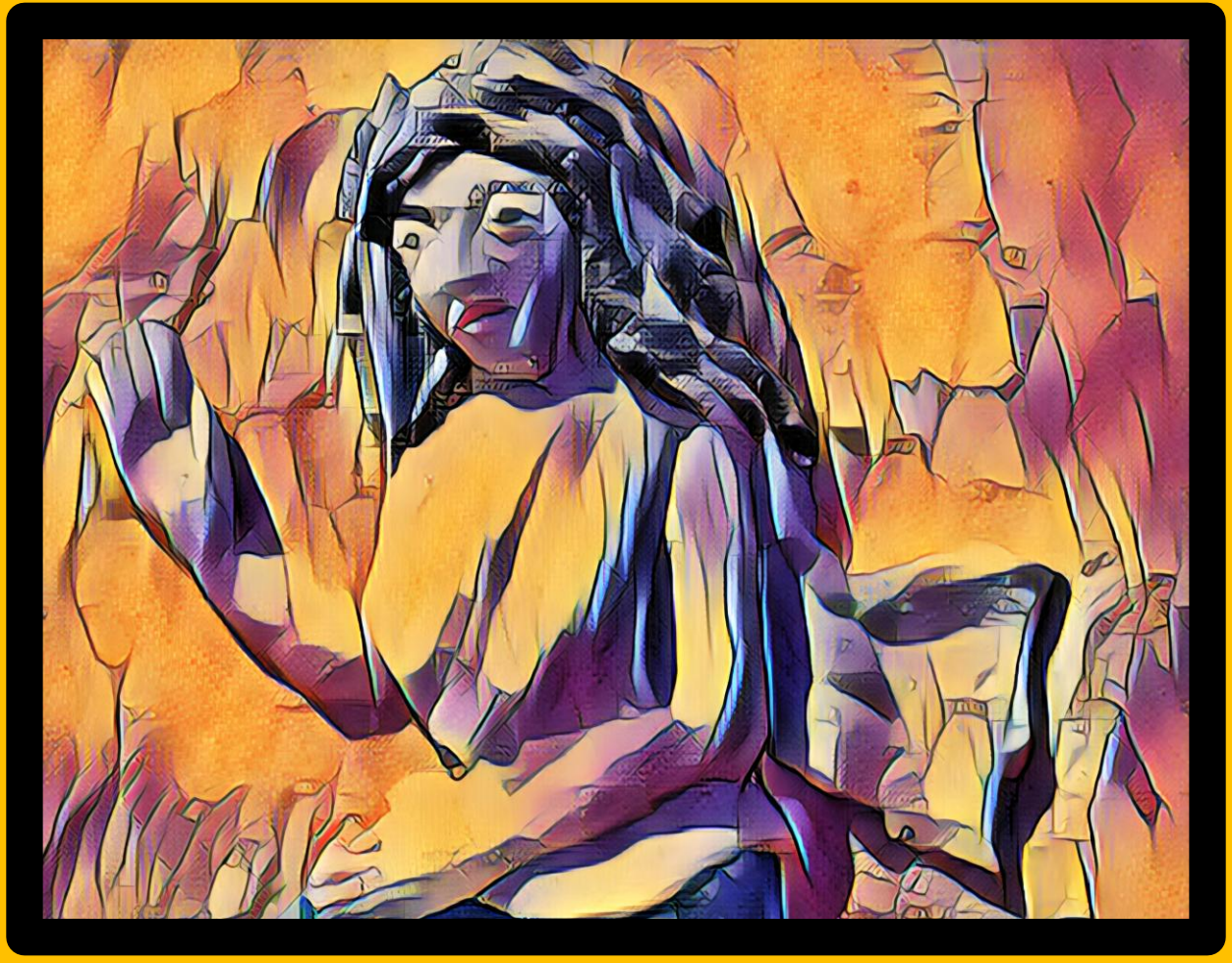


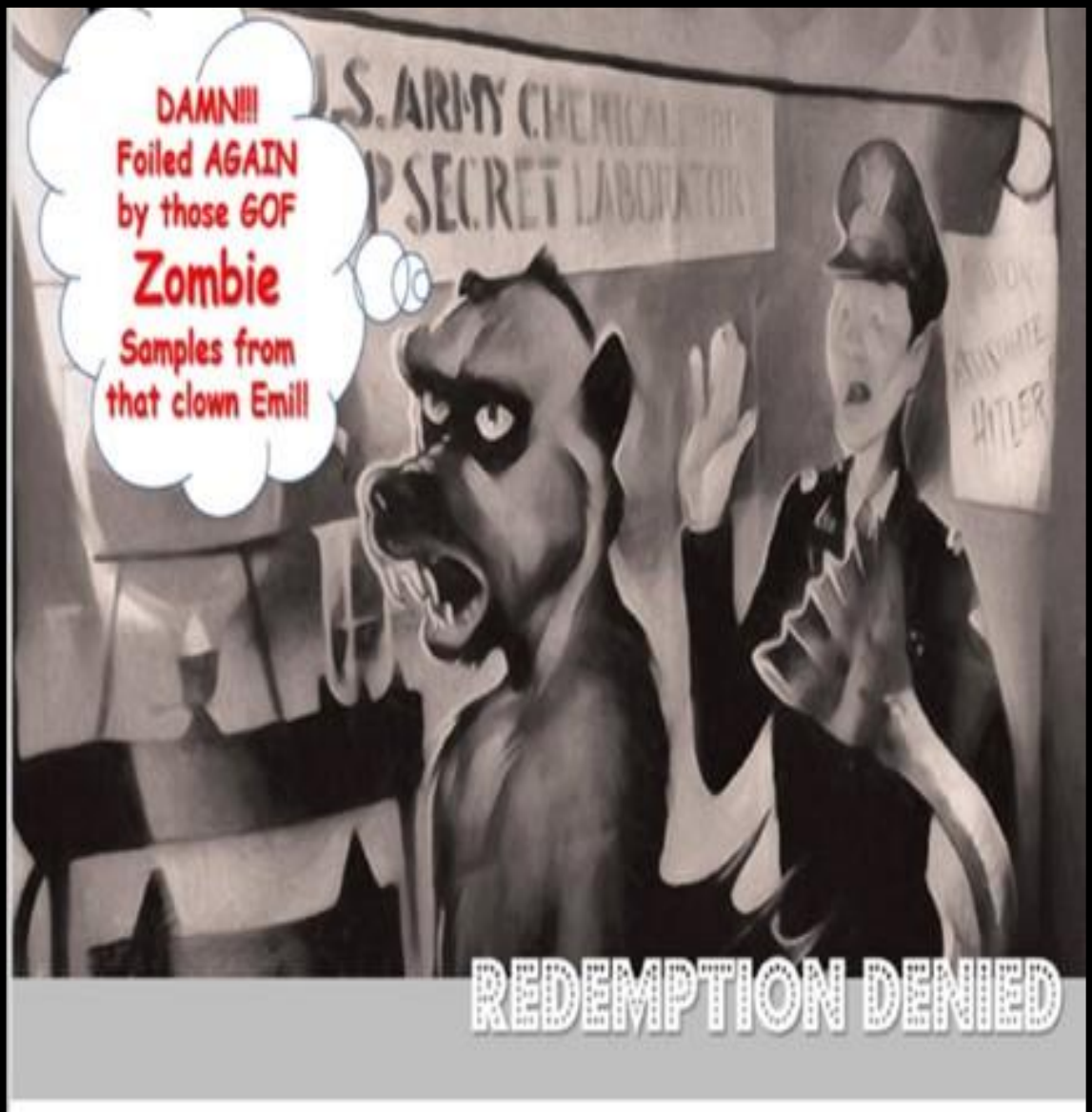












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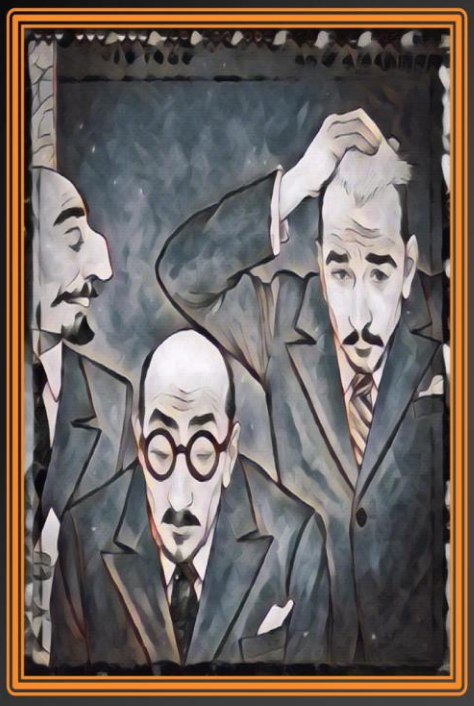

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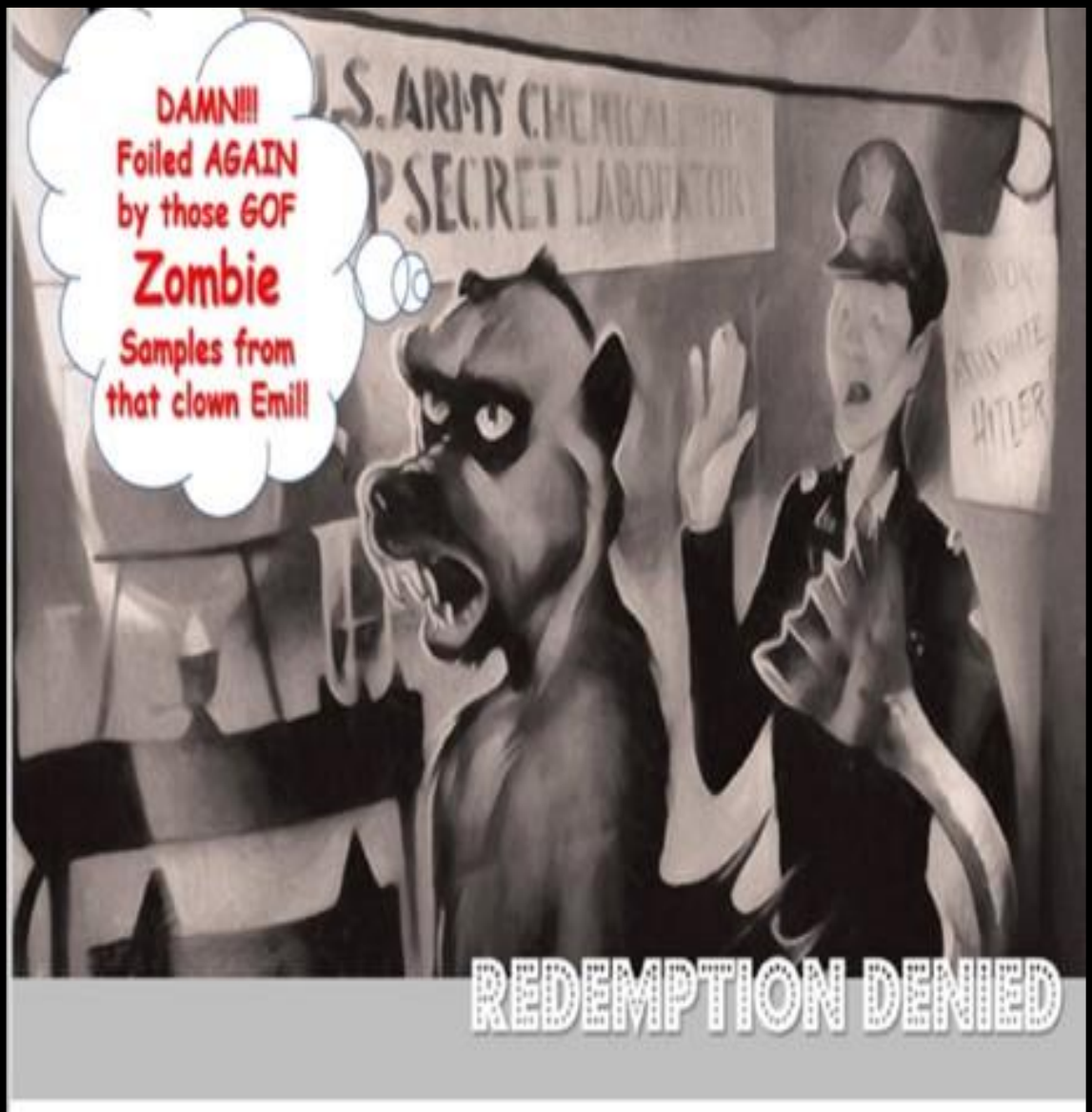

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